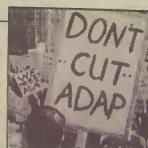


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Raising 'L'  
Plenty of lesbians in  
Showtimes' 'The L Word.'  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 3 • 15 January 2004

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## Leno fights for gay marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

Saying the time is right, openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) is pushing for California to recognize gay marriage.

On February 12, National Freedom to Marry Day, Leno intends to introduce legislation to prohibit the denial of marriage licenses by the state of California to gay and lesbian couples.

"We are setting our sights on a goal. We will only get there by putting something forward in the form of a bill," Leno said of his decision to take an offensive step in the fight for marriage equality. "All we are talking about is fair and equal treatment under the law. It doesn't sound anything like church bells."

Gay marriage proponents hailed Leno's move. Though they acknowledged it will be an uphill battle, activists would not rule out the possibility for victory.

"I am consistently amazed at how quickly fair-minded Americans, Californians in particular, are embracing this as just and I wouldn't rule out the possibility it is going to pass," said Molly McKay, Northern California Executive Director of Marriage Equality California. "More importantly than whether we can pass it this year is it will allow us to continue to dialogue with our state on why we should have full marriage equality."

Presently, California couples may register with the state as domestic partners, affording them approximately 16 rights and responsibilities. When recently passed AB205 takes effect in January 2005, registered domestic partners will be entitled to hundreds of additional protections. AB205 does not, however, grant all of the rights of marriage under state law, nor does it make couples and their children eligible for over a thousand federal protections offered to married couples and their children.

While Proposition 22, which voters passed in 2000, defines marriage as between a man and woman under California Family Code Section 308, Leno insists the measure does not apply to marriages performed inside the state. He said it was designed to prevent California from being forced to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples who were married outside of the state.

The law did not change the criteria for issuance of marriage licenses within California, Leno claims. His bill addresses California Family Code Sections 300, 301, and 302.

"For too long, the right to marry has been denied to thousands of Cal-

page 12 ►

## Mixed reviews for Mayor Newsom

by Matthew S. Bajko

In his first week in office, Mayor Gavin Newsom has already given fodder to critics who question his resolve to tackle gay issues, and has left many questioning how a politician adept at courting the gay vote could stumble so quickly.

A firestorm of criticism has erupted over the omission of the LGBT community from an essay read during Newsom's inaugural celebration January 8. Adding to the tempest is the mayor's decision to eliminate a liaison position to the LGBT community from his Office of Neighborhood Services.

After the mayor took the oath of office, Newsom's uncle, the actor Ed Asner, read a piece titled "San Francisco, City and the World." Written by state Librarian Kevin Starr, the narrative charted the history of immigration to San Francisco. Nearly all ethnic groups received mention and the diverse list of immigrants included Native Americans, Spanish settlers, South Americans, Irishmen, Swedes, Norwegians, Jews, Arabs, African Americans, and peoples from across Asia.

Starr managed to include nearly every neighborhood in the city except for the Castro. And after asking "But who was to live in this city?" he failed to highlight that gay people from across the world have flocked to San Francisco.



From left Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Assemblyman Mark Leno, and Treasurer Susan Leal toast Mayor Gavin Newsom in the Castro.

The history of Japanese Americans in the city also was not mentioned in Starr's essay.

When asked about the essay after an appearance at a Castro restaurant later that night, Newsom responded that his swearing-in committee had asked Starr to write about ethnic diversity and immigration to San Francisco.

"Nothing was done with any intent to offend anyone. We tried to be inclusive," Newsom said.

"Some things slip under the radar screen. We didn't mean to offend anybody."

When contacted by the Bay Area Reporter this week, Starr expressed his apologies if anyone took offense to his essay. He said he purposefully left out the LGBT community because his focus was on ethnic groups.

"I was told to emphasize ethnic identities."

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## Heartfelt tribute to B.A.R.'s Bob Ross

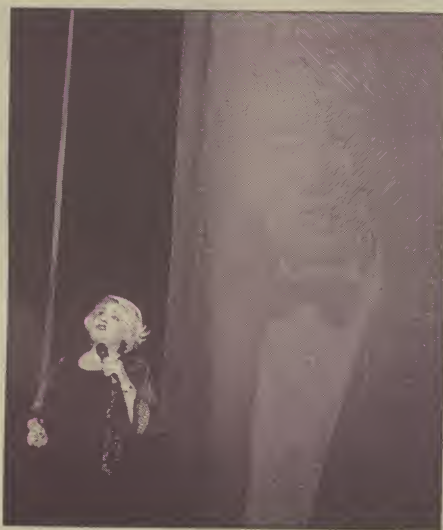
by Cynthia Laird

A large contingent from the Imperial Court was on hand, including Empress I, Jose, the Widow Norton; political leaders were there to pay their respects; students from the San Francisco Ballet School performed; Sharon McNight sang; and a number of speakers talked emotionally about the vision and legacy of Bay Area Reporter publisher Bob Ross at his memorial Sunday, January 11 at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco.

Mr. Ross died December 10 of complications from diabetes at the age of 69.

In many ways, Mr. Ross would have enjoyed the tribute, several friends and colleagues said afterwards. While he often shunned publicity regarding his financial support of local charities and civic organizations, he was remembered as a generous man whose vision of equality for gays led to his co-founding the B.A.R. in April 1971 and watching the fledgling publication become a powerhouse serving the Bay Area's diverse LGBT communities.

Several hundred people attended the late



Sharon McNight performs at the memorial service for Bob Ross.

afternoon event, as well as a reception that followed at Marlana's. Ironically, remarked longtime Castro resident Gustavo Serina, the Hayes Street bar had permission from the police to allow the overflow crowd to spill onto the sidewalk, drinks in hand; more than 30 years ago Mr. Ross was fighting the police department because of its raids on gay bars.

"His legacy is so profound," Mayor Gavin Newsom said at the service. "He was a man of extraordinary vision. Bob visualized a society where gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders could live openly. Bob had the courage and leadership to implement that vision."

The mayor added that the B.A.R. "transformed politics here and its coverage of AIDS put a face on the illness."

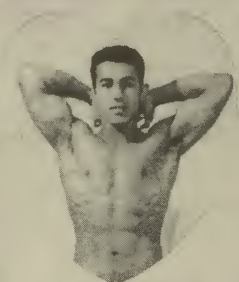
And, in one of many references to Mr. Ross's legendary temper, Newsom said, "Bob could be demanding and Bob certainly could

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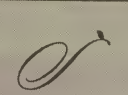


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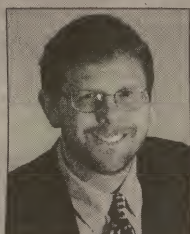
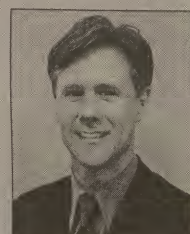
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# Ammiano given OK for re-election run

by Matthew S. Bajko

**A**fter learning last week he is not barred by term limits from seeking re-election, Tom Ammiano will run this fall to retain his seat as District 9 supervisor.

"I am going to do it, unless Howard Dean offers me a cabinet job or I am invited to play for the 49ers," joked Ammiano on Monday, January 12.

The openly gay Ammiano, who has served on the Board of Supervisors since 1994 and has won election to the office three times, requested City Attorney Dennis Herrera review his eligibility to run a fourth time. City rules limit supervisors to serving two consecutive four-year terms.

Elected citywide in 1994 to a four-year term, Ammiano then ran for re-election in 1998. However, with the switch from citywide to district elections, he only served two years as a supervisor before he was required to run again. In 2000 he won his race for a four-year term in District 9, representing the Mission and Bernal Heights neighborhoods on the board.

In reviewing the matter, the city attorney ruled "there is no explicit provision that the two-year transitional term maintains the succession between four-year terms for purposes of the term limit." Nor is there any evidence, the city attorney found, to prove that voters intended "a two-year term caused by the one-time transition from citywide to district elections — to maintain the succession between four-year terms."

Herrera's office quietly informed Ammiano last week of its ruling and posted the decision to the office's Web site on Wednesday, January 7, just after the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press. If Ammiano wins re-election in November, he will be allowed to serve

another four-year term beginning in January 2005.

Supporters hailed the city attorney's decision.

"I think that is great. Obviously he is a very accomplished politician with a long track record of advocating for the LGBT community," said Robert Haaland, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, a progressive queer political group that has long supported Ammiano.

It will be Ammiano's sixth campaign to seek elective office inside City Hall. In addition to his supervisory campaigns, he ran twice for mayor, placing fourth in last No-

While confident of his chances at winning the race, Ammiano added, "Nothing is a guarantee."

He could face a challenge from the burgeoning Green Party which will be looking to add to its clout on the board and derail a possible challenge by Ammiano to regain the presidency of the board.

Current board President Matt Gonzalez trounced Ammiano not only citywide, but in his own district, during last fall's mayoral general election. In the Mission District, Gonzalez garnered 5,070 votes, more than double the 2,375 cast for Ammiano. Even in North Bernal Heights, a lesbian enclave, Ammiano

**"I'm going to do it, unless Howard Dean offers me a cabinet job or I'm invited to play for the 49ers."**

member's general election and losing to former Mayor Willie Brown in the December 1999 runoff race.

If re-elected to the board, Ammiano said, "It certainly would be a significant opportunity to develop more policy." One of his main issues will be universal health care for all San Franciscans, he said.

He also said, "Maintaining a queer presence on the board is very important."

While he has developed a working relationship with Bevan Dufty, the openly gay supervisor from District 8, Ammiano said, "we do differ though, at times."

Dufty is a moderate and a strong backer of new Mayor Gavin Newsom, whereas Ammiano is more of a progressive queer voice on the board. Despite those ideological differences, the two have worked together on such issues as AIDS funding and methamphetamine use within the gay community, and Dufty has said he would endorse Ammiano.

lost to Gonzalez, albeit by only a few hundred votes (1,056 to 1,235.)

A Gonzalez-backed candidate could pose a credible threat in taking Ammiano's seat. Even though Ammiano did endorse Gonzalez in the runoff election, his endorsement came late. The two camps also exchanged barbs over Gonzalez's last-minute entry into the mayor's race. Queer progressives were stunned and argued that by doing so, Gonzalez was implying a gay man could not win. So far though, no Green Party challengers have come forward.

And voters may once again return to Ammiano's fold in his supervisor's race. In 2000, he beat back five contenders for his seat, winning 68 percent of the vote that year.

"I have very strong support in the district and from Greens as well," maintained Ammiano, who noted he is a supporter of Mark Sanchez, an openly gay Green Party school board member up for re-election this year. ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Lesbian named to school board

by Cynthia Laird

Out lesbian Heather Hiles, who worked on Mayor Gavin Newsom's campaign and authored his policy paper on education, was sworn into a seat on the San Francisco Board of Education at a hastily arranged ceremony Monday, January 12 in the library at the Tenderloin Community School.

A seat on the school board became vacant Sunday when President Emilio Cruz tendered his resignation.

Hiles, 35, runs a consulting firm. She lives in Bernal Heights and serves on the board of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. She is African American and Native American.

Before administering the oath of office to Hiles, Newsom went out of his way to praise Supervisor Tom Ammiano, himself a former school board member. Several school board members and city supervisors were on hand for the ceremony, along with community members.

"I am swearing in someone whom I have tremendous admiration for," Newsom said. "I've known Heather for many years, and for the last year and a half she helped lead our charge to weed through the politics and get to the policy. The reason we're here today is education, and Tom's done a lot for that."

Newsom said that the only question he had for Hiles is whether she supports the March ballot initiative to use general fund money for the public schools.

"She answered in the affirmative and that's all I needed to know," Newsom said.

For her part, Hiles wasted no time in establishing her independence.

"I'm excited to be appointed to the school board by the mayor and I look forward to holding him accountable," she said, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Members of the Board of Education are currently split, and several members were openly critical of Superintendent Arlene Ackerman last year. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Monday that with Hiles, Ackerman is expected



From left: Supervisor Bevan Dufty, school board member Heather Hiles, and Supervisor Tom Ammiano.

to have four allies on the seven-member board.

Board member Eric Mar, who attended Monday's ceremony, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he has concerns over Hiles's business ties, but that "another queer on the board is a good thing."

Openly gay Mark Sanchez, a Green Party member, was elected to the board several years ago. He will be up for re-election this November, and Hiles will have to run to retain her seat.

Ammiano told the *B.A.R.* that while he doesn't know much about Hiles, he intends to sit down and talk with her.

"I am happy the African American population will be represented on the board," he said. "I look forward to seeing what she is like."

Supervisor Bevan Dufty praised the appointment.

"I think it's an outstanding choice," he said Monday. "She is eminently qualified and will be an incredible bridge builder between the LGBT and African American communities. I'm proud that someone from our community is joining the school board."

During her remarks, Hiles said that she wants to bring an economic development approach to the district, and wants to examine how money is spent. She also

wants to change the low performance by African American students on the district's exit exam. She noted that Latino students did "slightly better" on the test.

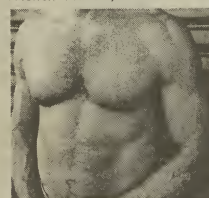
"The achievement gap is closing, but very slowly," she said.

And she stressed the need for work experience for high school students as well as improving the perception of San Francisco's public schools.

"I want to get to a point where people are moving to the city for its public schools," she said. ▽

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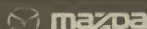
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# Antigay Oakland cop promoted to sergeant

by Zak Szymanski

While Oakland city officials battle over who was responsible for leaking a memo about the promotion of an allegedly homophobic police officer, some LGBT activists wonder if the current focus misses the point: that an officer with a history of antigay allegations is moving up in the ranks, and many people in power – including Oakland's top gay representatives – seem unconcerned.

News reports this week in the *Oakland Tribune* and a column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* centered around a leaked memo from Oakland City Attorney John Russo that expressed concern about the December 18 promotion of Officer Chris Del Rosario to the rank of sergeant.

In 2001, Del Rosario was stationed outside Oakland's Bench & Bar gay nightclub to conduct surveillance following neighborhood complaints about disruptions. At the time of the surveillance, the *Bay Area Reporter* revealed what two Oakland sergeants acknowledged was unorthodox procedure: the police surveillance report listed "two men kissing" as part of its complaint.

It was later revealed that Del Rosario – while watching the two patrons kiss outside the door to

the bar – said he would "rather watch two dogs fuck." His comments were recorded on the video surveillance tape, which was later submitted in an effort to revoke the club's license. The Oakland city attorney's office, however, informed the police department that Del Rosario's comments rendered the tape useless as evidence.

In 2002, Del Rosario also received a complaint from a fellow officer that he used antigay slurs about a gay deputy city attorney who was scheduled for a police ride-along.

Del Rosario is now a sergeant, which does not sit well with City Attorney Russo, who, according to the leaked memo to Oakland Police Chief Richard Word, is concerned that Del Rosario's promotion could make the city vulnerable to legal claims and damages.

Thus far, Russo's memo is getting all the press, with the Oakland Police Officers Association calling for an investigation into who leaked it.

But other city officials remain curiously silent on the promotion of an officer with an antigay record. Openly gay City Council member Danny Wan, for instance, has not publicly addressed the matter, and did not return phone calls from the *B.A.R.* seeking comment.

Word and the Oakland Police

Department's LGBT liaison Rebecca Campbell could not be reached for comment by press time, although Word reportedly suspended Del Rosario without pay for the 2001 Bench & Bar incident and ordered him to re-take sensitivity classes. The 2002 incident was reportedly resolved through mediation.

For LGBT activist Pete King, president and founder of East Bay Pride, Del Rosario's promotion is what deserves the attention, not the leaked memo.

"Without knowing all the details of this man's total service record, it still pains me to think that there could be an officer promoted who has expressed and demonstrated ill will toward the gay community in the past," King told the *B.A.R.*, adding that what has not been addressed is the police department's dismal record on adequately addressing LGBT issues and the community.

"It does point to ongoing failure of the Oakland Police Department to train all of its existing officers and personnel about LGBT issues, both in law enforcement and community relations," said King, "and a lack of sensitivity on the part of the administration to consult with the gay community about this, which is also an ongoing problem." ▼

## Study: Antigay school harassment is pervasive

by Liz Highleyman

Antigay harassment remains widespread in California schools, according to new study results released this week, but schools can take effective measures to curb such harassment.

"Every student deserves to learn in an environment that helps them reach their full potential," said Molly O'Shaughnessy, director of the California Safe Schools Coalition. "This study proves that schools can take specific steps to reach that goal."

The Safe Place to Learn study of more than 200,000 state middle and high school students – one of the largest ever done on the issue – found that 7.5 percent of students reported that they had been the

target of harassment or bullying based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender variation. The survey further found that such harassment leads to "dangerous academic, health, and safety consequences for students."

The results come despite the passage of the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act, which took effect in January 2000.

"When 200,000 students are suffering the devastating consequences of harassment each year, schools can't ignore the problem any longer," said O'Shaughnessy. "This is an epidemic in California schools that needs immediate attention from state and local school officials."

The Safe Place to Learn study  
page 11 ►

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# LGBTs hope Harris inauguration sets tone for tenure

by Zak Szymanski

With a multiracial, interfaith celebration of all genders and sexualities, Kamala Harris made history last Thursday, January 8 when she was sworn in as San Francisco's 24th district attorney.

Harris, 39, is the first woman to serve as the city's district attorney, and the first African American woman to hold such an office in California. She is also the first Indian American woman in the United States to hold a top prosecutor's job.

In a ceremony that supporters say captured the diversity of her campaign and the inclusiveness and energy with which she will conduct her office, the Harris inauguration opened with a dragon dance by Kie Lun Martial Arts and closed with the song "San Francisco" as performed by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Youth vocalist Maridel Terciano sang a classical version of the national anthem, which was met with uproarious applause, and Pamela Kelly delivered the Black National Anthem, with much of the audience joining in the singing.

Speakers and presenters in-



Maya Lakshmi Harris, left, talks with her sister, new SF District Attorney Kamala Harris.

cluded representatives of the Shiva-Vishnu Temple, who gave a Hindu blessing for her office; and the Reverend Dr. James McCray, who offered a prayer for Harris, her staff, and all public servants.

Openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who introduced the distinguished guests in attendance, confessed his adoration for Harris, saying, "I am crazy in love with our new district attorney," adding that such a dis-

closure was indeed "meant to raise a few eyebrows."

Friends and colleagues teased Harris over her early idealism and good sense of humor, and the event was marked by laughter and hopefulness.

Now the real work begins.

Many LGBT community members say that Harris has a big job ahead of her when it comes to improving the state of affairs at the

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## OPEN FORUM

## Leno takes the plunge

A couple of weeks ago in this space, we called on gay rights activists to go on the offense and stop playing catch-up with conservative Republicans on the issue of gay marriage. Same-sex civil marriage is an issue that's not going away and the GOP is fighting it with all the power it can muster, including the threat of a constitutional amendment that would ban marriages for gay and lesbian couples. With California Assemblyman Mark Leno's announcement this week that he will push a bill to prohibit the denial of marriage licenses by the state to same-sex couples, the offensive drive has begun.

It looks like the timing is right; and although we must point out that the fate of Leno's bill is a great unknown, at the very least the proposal puts us on the map. In President Bush's upcoming State of the Union speech, he is expected to announce a \$1.5 billion measure to promote "healthy marriages"; and the marriage promotion, according to a story in Wednesday's *New York Times*, would be available only to heterosexual couples. This comes despite the fact that there are thousands of gay and lesbian couples across the country who are also raising children and could stand to benefit from any counseling that Bush's initiative provides. While we oppose the federal government's intrusion into what should be a private matter between consenting adults, if Bush is going to promote marriage, then marriage for gays should be promoted too; but his plan is just the latest example of the administration's blatant discrimination against us. Heading into his re-election campaign, it appears that Bush is trying once again to shore up his base by appealing to social conservatives on this issue.

So, as the marriage debate heats up, look for California to become a potential hotbed. Antigay legislators here are likely to bring up Proposition 22; but as Leno points out, that initiative, passed by voters four years ago, was designed to prevent the state from being

forced to recognize same-sex marriages performed outside the state. Leno's plan, in contrast, changes the criteria for the issuance of marriage licenses within California by amending different sections of the Family Code. While that may seem to be a technical distinction, it's important because the homophobes always toss Proposition 22 into any fight for expanded domestic partner rights and are likely to use the same tactics to derail Leno's civil marriage bill.

In fact, we may be able to undercut some of the far right's arguments against AB205, the sweeping domestic partner bill signed by former Governor Gray Davis last fall. The new law will not go into effect until next January, but opponents are fighting it in court, saying

it amounts to gay marriage. The introduction next month of Leno's explicit civil marriage bill provides an opportunity to fashion the debate on that bill to emphasize that AB205 is not marriage; if it were, there would be no need for Leno's proposal. We can show the difference between domestic partnerships and marriage and demonstrate why domestic partnerships are inadequate. In effect, we may be able to take away their arguments against AB205.

We do have concerns about Leno's introduction of a same-sex civil marriage bill in the midst of a presidential election year, but on balance, he's seizing the offense on what is arguably the number one issue in the fight for equality — and that's what we think needs to happen. ▼

## Editorial



## The lean, Dean lying machine

by Michael T. McRaith

Not since Richard Nixon has a U.S. president inspired such animosity in Democrats as does George W. Bush. In 1972, Nixon defeated George McGovern by a margin of 60.7 percent to 37.5 percent of the popular vote, winning the electoral college by 96.5 percent to 3.5 percent, by any definition an outright bloodbath.

Like Nixon, Bush justifies a war based on false assumptions premised upon deliberately misleading non-intelligence and with an objective that, even today, remains nebulous. Bush pontificates with remarkable condescension and arrogance for a man restricted to monosyllabic words during a State of the Union speech.

Yet, ignoring the history of 1972 and the lessons in success from the Clinton era, many liberal Democrats have been wooed and seduced by Howard Dean. Without a divorce from this shallow infatuation, we stand doomed to repeat McGovern's grim history. Dean of 2004 is merely a weak parallel to Bush of 2000: a former governor without any national or Washington experience, without a legislative track record, and with few specific plans. Notwithstanding Dean's membership in the National Rifle Association — which he fails to discuss with his liberal supporters — his rhetoric will not sway the independent electorate.

Republicans are lathered up and foaming at the mouth, ready to foist another bloodbath on Democrats. After Bush's re-election, at least two and probably four Supreme Court justices will retire or die, and Bush will appoint replacements. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who sided with the majority in the hateful *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision of 1986, and who sided with the dissent in last year's *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, was nominated by Nixon in 1971.

Simply because Dean gives voice to our passionate distaste for Bush does not render

him viable, nor does his knack for sound bites. Opposition of the American people to the Iraq debacle, while strong, remains an infinitesimal fraction of the opposition to Nixon and Vietnam.

As governor of Vermont, Dean signed the legislation by which that state became the first in America to recognize civil unions.

The Dean campaign, though, has misled us, fostered the illusion that he was a standard-bearer, a leader, that he proudly steered Vermont to accept legal rights for same-sex couples. The truth is quite different: Dean refused to support Vermont legislation supporting same-sex marriage.

On December 21, 1999, the day that the Vermont Supreme Court recognized the legal rights of same-sex couples, the *New York Times* reported that Dean said "same-sex marriage makes me uncomfortable, the same as anybody else."

On January 27, 2000, the *Burlington Free Press* reported that a Republican state senator intended to offer an amendment to Vermont's constitution clarifying that "marriage is a special label for the partnership between a man and a woman." Dean's response? As reported by the *Free Press*, "Dean said at his weekly press conference he has no opinion about a constitutional amendment [prohibiting same-sex marriage]."

Dean's ultimate position, frankly, is not nearly as problematic as his misleading exploitation of the decision imposed on Vermont by its highest court. Other candidates, including Senators John Kerry, Joe Lieberman, even John Edwards, and Congressman Dick Gephardt, have worked for our community but, unlike Dean, have not misled us about their leadership.

John Kerry is the best-qualified — the anti-Bush — and able to win the general election. He has a record of successful and hon-

est public service dating to the 1960s, when he volunteered to serve in Vietnam. In 1996, Kerry was one of only 14 senators to vote against the Defense Of Marriage Act, and the only one of the 14 up for re-election that same year. In 1985, Kerry introduced the Civil Rights Protection Act that would have prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. A veteran of combat duty, he is one of only five senators to testify against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

We gain nothing with Dean, a candidate of zero conviction who compromised the sanctity of our intimate relationships, whose support has been lukewarm and politically expedient. We gain even less with a candidate who has a Nader-like chance of winning the general election, a man completely devoid of even the accomplishments, national reputation, and mandate that carried McGovern to the nomination.

Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, all Republican appointees, impact our lives with decisions that cannot be amended or reviewed by another court. Supreme Court decisions seem remote, hypothetical and intangible because we will never meet these men. But with cold and narrow ideology, and with new Bush appointees, these distant judicial monoliths stand prepared to add stones to the already-full backpacks of pregnant women and of our GLBT community, increasing our daily burden with conservative mandates that will lawfully subordinate "choice," "immorality," "lifestyle," and "agenda."

Whatever else we do, we will fight, but we have already paid a steep price for George W. Bush. We cannot now afford another George McGovern, or worse. ▼

## Guest Opinion

The author is a community activist and attorney in Chicago, Illinois.



## LETTERS

## Ammiano is not a leader

I disagree with Wayne Friday's conclusion that other candidates should step aside so that Tom Ammiano can be re-elected District 9 supervisor without a race and that Ammiano deserves another term as president of the Board of Supervisors ["CA primary could decide Dem nominee," *Our Man Friday*, January 8]. The sad fact is Ammiano is a whiner whose meaningful accomplishments are virtually non-existent. His incredible lack of leadership skills resulted in his being totally ineffective when he previously was president of the Board of Supes. Ammiano should do us all a favor and retire to some out of the way location far from here. His presence would not be missed.

Bill Hanrahan  
San Francisco

## Polling data

Wayne Friday keeps having trouble with math – or his memory. He writes that David Binder correctly called the mayor's race, and that the SurveyUSA poll showing "Matt Gonzalez well ahead," was wrong.

Actually, the last SurveyUSA poll showed the race at 52-48 in favor of Gonzalez, with a 4-point margin of error – in essence a dead heat. This was before Newsom brought Clinton and Gore to town for some serious Democratic arm-twisting. Allowing for the time that passed between the poll and election day, SurveyUSA appears to have been right. In this, it was consistent with every other credible poll throughout the campaign, which showed a tight race.

Binder, by contrast, who was hired by Newsom's downtown friends, called large leads for Newsom until the end, when he started hinting at a close race if turnout was high. On the Gonzalez side, we knew that given the frequency with which Newsom and his friends were polling, their failure to release specific numbers meant the race was close, Binder's pronouncements notwithstanding, and that they knew it too.

Paul Quick  
San Francisco

## Don't blame the drug

I'd like to take a moment to respond to Steven D. Keller's letter asking the B.A.R. to refuse advertising of the HIV drug Reyataz by Bristol-Meyers Squibb [Mailstrom, December 25]. It's no secret that HIV drugs can have debilitating side effects and I'm sympathetic to Mr. Keller's plight.

Mr. Keller, however, does not appear to understand the basic science behind drug research. BMS has published an extensive list of known and possible side effects when Reyataz is used in conjunction with other HIV medications. While several of the complaints Mr. Keller has are indeed listed as side effects, one cannot simply just assume that Reyataz is the culprit here. Reyataz, when administered concomitant with other specific drugs, can effect the concentration of those drugs and lead to clinically significant drug interactions. In this case, Reyataz cannot be said to be the "cause" of the problem when discontinuation of the concomitant drug may eliminate or reduce the side effects. I assume that Mr. Keller, like many other persons with HIV, takes more than Reyataz alone. Simply because Mr. Keller exhibits this list of side effects we cannot assume a cause and effect. BMS has done its part in documenting the known and potential side effects of Reyataz. It's not their job to prove that Mr. Keller's side effects are not related to their drug. That's left to his primary care physician where an evaluation of all his drugs, HIV or not, can be done.

Finally, I'd like to comment on Mr. Keller's assertion that these drugs are "...destroying our lives and our bodies." Speaking only for myself, HIV is what was destroying my life and my body. It's no coincidence that morbidity from HIV/AIDS has dramatically declined since the introduction of protease inhibitors in the mid-to-late 1990s. Frankly, my life has improved immensely through the use of these drugs.

Mark Herzog  
San Francisco

## Battle lines have been drawn

The battle lines have been drawn. George W. Bush has declared that he will do everything "legally" possible to dictate who shall, and shall not, have their marriages legally recognized in this one nation, under his administration, with liberty and justice for all heterosexuals.

He has promised to go so far as to design an amendment to the Constitution that will reaffirm his belief that marriage is to be between one man and one woman only. With such a belief system ingrained in his psyche, Mr. Bush clearly shows his homophobia (which literally means "fear of man") and his prejudices (which means to judge or to prejudice) toward the LGBTQ community by choosing to decree how we shall, or in this case, shall not love.

I, for one, do not see how this will be possible. For one thing those who will swear on a stack of Bibles that any marriage between any same-sex couple will

destroy the sanctity of marriage have no concrete evidence to back up such a theory.

All that these religious right wing, conservative, superior-minded, emotionally and verbally violent bigots have to back themselves up is an antiquated, Bible-based belief system written by straight men that state homosexuality is a sin. Major organized religious institutions throughout this land are taking this theory all the way to the White House in their efforts to restrict marriage to heterosexuals who feel as they do.

I was taught in Catholic school that our federal government is based upon separation of church and state. If so, how can political and legal doctrines be dictated by any religious institution? How can any politician be allowed to question the inalienable rights of American citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Why are we even arguing the legal right of two consenting adults to marry in a land where all men [and women] are created equal?

In 2003 Justice Anthony Kennedy ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas*, (as cited in *Frontiers*, vol. 22; issue 17, p. 12) that, "The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives.... The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime." Later in Massachusetts, Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall affirmed that the concept of common human dignity protected by the 14th Amendment encompassed an individual's choice of an intimate partner. I implore the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States of America to support Chief Justice Marshall's historic decision in Massachusetts for legalized marriage for all citizens in that state by declaring same-sex marriage legal for all citizens throughout America.

If Mr. Bush can manage to create an amendment to add to the Constitution that will ban marriage for a specific group of consenting adults based solely on the fact that such marriages are between same-sex couples, and such a document is voted into the system during his current administration or (if re-elected, the next), then there will be no more true democracy, equality, or freedom in these 50 un-United States of America.

However, if the Supreme Court stops this farce now by declaring that marriage between any two consenting adults is hereby and forever legal within the United States of America, then true freedom will ring loud and clear for us all, the institution of marriage will grow stronger through diversity and openness, and the American family will be something to be proud of due to true equality.

Tim Hume  
San Francisco

## Dem doesn't want Milk Club nod

I cannot accept nor do I want the Milk Club's endorsement, because accepting such an endorsement would pose a conflict of interest for the reason that the Milk Club – while using the Democratic Party's name in its club name, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club – has endorsed candidates registered with the Green Party. Due to this circumstance, I may well be called upon to vote on some form of discipline in the future, since I am a member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

For the record, I opposed an earlier resolution to immediately go after clubs which endorsed Greens. I may well vote against any similar future resolution on the merits. But I feel I am like a judge, and must not take endorsements from clubs that may be subject to resolutions imposing discipline in the future.

This is unfortunate because I personally knew the late Harvey Milk and walked precincts for him.

Arlo Hale Smith  
San Francisco

## Out of themes at Trannyshack?

I read with great interest the *Calendar* column this issue ["Not cool," January 1] regarding the Trannyshack blackface "scandal."

I'm going to side with Larry-bob on this one, because at the very least, his actions have reopened this much-needed dialogue. Thank you for using your space to address this issue. Besides, a girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do. I applaud anyone taking a stand.

It gave me the courage to write my spiel here. Actually, the actions at and about the club sparked it. Maybe they have run out of themes. Did they already have fat-ass night? Let's not leave anyone out. But as anyone interested enough to have checked this club out knows, it's one of those fast disappearing "only in San Francisco" experiences. I'm actually surprised more people aren't regularly offended, but then that's why we flock there, right? To escape it all, see something naughty, and occasionally see lapses in taste, be it bad drag or otherwise.

And I keep reading as a half-assed defense, "the performer is mixed-raced, apparently half black." I don't get this? Which half? The question is also here: why is it more ok/less ok for a mixed-race person to do this? I'm not sure what this all means, but I really want to know what people think.

next page ►

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## Mailstrom

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Trannyshack once did "Wetback Night" and got people angry. I'm a queer Mexican and thought it was really funny. I thought it was just a silly way to acknowledge that sliver of the queer/Chicano/Californian/American community.

If it were a T.V. show instead of a T.V. nightclub, would it be canceled? Definitely. But it's not, Blanche. It has a great track record and God bless them for keeping it up so long. God knows so many of us are so over ourselves we can't get into anything anymore and we've turned into our parents!

I have been thinking about this issue, racism in the queer community, ever since I heard Greg Proops call Iraqis "sand monkeys" and North Koreans "rice monkeys" in his act at the Hedwigged Out Xmas show at the Castro. People who hissed/booed were told to get over it. What's up with that? I was shocked and chagrined, mostly chagrined and embarrassed for him.

Perhaps we should just feel bad for the blackface tranny, dust it off, and learn something here, folks. As to what that is, I'm clueless.

Moon Trent  
San Francisco

## 'This hurts me'

It's a pity that stupidity and insensitivity are not "biologically impossible." I've been trying to stay out of the public discussion regarding the latest Trannyshack BS, primarily because I'm not interested in doing anything that shines a light on Trannyshack. But Liam Passmore pushed me over the edge [Mailstrom, January 8].

I'm gonna personalize this because, for me, this is a personal wound revisited. I've been boycotting Trannyshack for about seven years now ever since I was invited to "participate" in one of their Black History Month shows. I won't go into the details of that event here, but I was horribly offended, and deeply hurt.

Trannyshack, Passmore, and those he named may know farce when they see it, but do they know my pain? Do they understand the insult? Do they care?

As Passmore says, "Blackface is a farce perpetuated on blacks by a savage and stupid dominant culture." A savage and stupid dominant culture of which the organizers of Trannyshack become a part as soon as they remove their wigs and makeup. A savage and stupid dominant culture of which the majority of Trannyshack supporters are also a part.

You're the ones who "don't get it." You're white males. You don't get it and, perhaps because you can't stand to see yourselves for what you are, you cover your faces in foundations and fake-smiles and insensitive laughter, and when you actually cause someone enough pain that they react, you get pissed off and start talking about your rights.

I'm saying, "Ow. This hurts me."

And you're saying, "This is satire, and we don't care if it hurts you. It's our right to cause you pain - our white male right and privilege."

It doesn't hurt Trannyshack, nor its supporters, so you continue to hurt me. And despite all of the compassion in my being, I find myself wanting to retaliate.

In my understanding, that's just evil. And that is how evil perpetuates itself. I will not knowingly perpetuate evil. I will not knowingly do something that hurts another simply because I can. And I would not attempt to cover my ignorance and insensitivity with a self-serving veil of glamorized irony.

The response of Trannyshack and its supporters reflects everything that is wrong with the Castro, the gay community, the country, and much of the "first world." It's a sickness that threatens to destroy the world, and Trannyshack is just one small symptom.

Many socially ignorant and culturally insensitive white folk (and those who pass) agree - paying for the privilege to go to Trannyshack and stand amongst each other and drunkenly enjoy the irreverence. Some of my best friends go to Trannyshack. Some even admit to being abhorred by what they experience when they go yet, there they are, every week, supporting what they supposedly find distasteful. It's sick, and makes me wonder how sick I must be to allow myself such friends.

You wanna be irreverent, you wanna be satirical, with no goals other than increasing your bank balance, you want to blatantly insult people and call it entertainment? Go for it. It's your First Amendment right. But know that, if it affects me, you will hear about it. That's my First Amendment right.

Jamez L. Smith  
San Francisco

## Smoking rates high

Research by the Centers for Disease Control, published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* shows that smoking rates in the LGBT community are alarming when compared to the general public. In a California state anti-tobacco campaign launched by Governor Gray Davis in 2003, it was estimated that 70 percent more gays and lesbians smoke compared to

the general public.

*Mother Jones* magazine listed former Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco as "the recipient of more tobacco money than any other politician in the country." Under Brown's watch, San Francisco has become one of the least smokefree friendly cities in the state. Brown has repeatedly brushed aside complaints from persons with respiratory disease and others, about the continuation of secondhand smoke problems in the city. Brown's response: "Patrons who, for all the appropriate reasons, do not wish to expose themselves to secondhand smoke, should avoid these establishments."

The result of the Brown administration's tobacco friendly interpretation of California's smokefree legislation is most obvious in the Castro District. Smokers sit on benches next to open windows and doors or stand in doorways allowing their smoke to pollute the insides of bars and cafes. Unlike many other cities, smoker-friendly San Francisco allows smoking at outdoor seating and even allows businesses to remove facades and place ashtrays on the tables once again inside the "faked" outdoor seating. In recent months smokers have become more brazen in their public smoking habits. People who are addicted to drugs will always jump at opportunities to continue their abuse, even at the expense of those around them.

If we really cared about our community we would be alarmed about the fact that smoking has replaced AIDS as the leading cause of premature death in the gay community. If we really cared about ourselves, those of us who do not smoke would refuse to patronize establishments that choose to allow smoking in places that harm the general public. Choosing to accommodate smokers means these establishments believe smoking is more important than the basic human right to breathe clean air.

Robert Starkey, a.k.a. The Truth Fairy  
San Francisco

## Kudos for center director

Accolades to Thom Lynch, our new executive director of the LGBT Community Center. The gentleman and his team belong to all of us. We are family, and we need each other to show this nation, and yes, the world that we can be united and proud of San Francisco.

Mr. Lynch continues to show a pursuit of quality. I feel his hard work is a labor of love and hope.

Let our community in the new year help him to enjoy the journey in any way that we can.

Marvin-Michel Le Grier, II, Esq.  
San Francisco

## But about the lighting

I have read several articles about how unappealing the LGBT Community Center is and would like to offer my two cents worth.

Lighting! Lighting! Lighting!

Every time I go by at night, I notice glaring fluorescent lights from the ceiling - hello! Dimmer switches, wall sconces? Surely it doesn't take an interior designer to come up with something more inviting.

Nothing is pretty under a harsh, fluorescent glare.

Larry E. Fisher  
San Francisco

## Loves new Castro laundry

Here's a challenge: take a boring thing such as doing laundry and make it brilliant. Make it art. Twist that ole drudgery and make it exciting. Something, dare I say, that one actually looks forward to. That is exactly what Jack Mogannam, the owner of Sit & Spin Laundromat on Castro and 18th, did. He took a horrible chore and made it seem new and exciting.

He did it by creating laundry luxury. By remodeling from the ground up and not allowing anything that wasn't of Donald Trump's standards, he has created a place fit to, well, do laundry. With all due respect to the entrepreneurs of other washing places, his concept of "only the best" is a huge deviation from every laundry I've ever washed my clothes at. Gone are the rundown days of laundry. Inlaid tile, imported from Italy, beacon you in. Once inside, marble counter tops await to assist you in folding your every clothing item. And check out that bathroom. Wow!

Normally, going to the laundry is a very isolating experience. Sit & Spin, on the other hand, with the aid of the owner and one of his friends, found this loner suddenly comfortably talking to everyone at the laundry like they were my best friends. All my walls came down and I found myself meeting my neighbors right and left, and realizing that I didn't have to stand and wait, bored, as my clothes dried. What a huge divergence from my past laundry experiences. Be still my heart, fun at the Laundromat.

If they can bring me out of my shell to meet some rather nice neighbors, I can't promise that you'll see the world anew, but maybe, just maybe, you might find a husband - or two.

David Gutierrez  
San Francisco



## POLITICS

# Richard Gephardt could be a big loser in Iowa

by Wayne Friday

**M**issouri Representative **Richard Gephardt**, who just happens to be my first choice among the Democratic candidates, could very possibly become the first of the political casualties if he fails to win the Iowa caucuses on Monday, January 19. Even Gephardt's top strategists know that second place isn't good enough for the veteran House member if he has any hope of going on to New Hampshire's primary on January 27 and then to February 3 when a host of states will hold primaries and caucuses where some 800 delegates will be chosen.

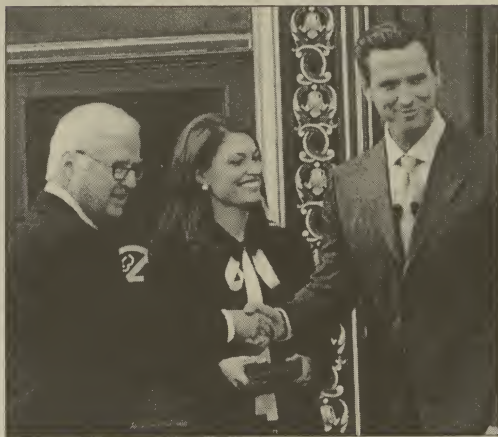
If Gephardt, who won in Iowa when he ran for president in 1988, cannot win his neighboring state next week, most feel that he will fold and not even go on to other contests. The bad news for the labor-backed congressman is that the latest Reuters/MSNBC/Zogby poll released this week has him trailing former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean** in Iowa by 3 percentage points. The poll, taking of 500 likely Democratic caucusgoers, has Dean leading Gephardt, 26 percent to 23 percent, with Senator **John Kerry** (D-Massachusetts) in third place at 14 percent, and North Carolina Senator **John Edwards** in a close fourth at 13 percent. Edwards received the coveted endorsement of the *Des Moines Register* on Sunday, and may get a bump in the tracking polls later this week.

The Iowa caucuses are the first meaningful prize in the Democratic race for the right to challenge President **George Bush** in November, and Dean and Gephardt have been locked in a tight duel in that state for months. A poll released over the past weekend by the *Los Angeles Times* carries ever worse news; that poll has Dean leading Gephardt by 7 percentage points.

The major question for Dean is whether his younger voters can be depended upon to get out to the caucuses since most Iowa political veterans say that Gephardt's older base is used to the process and will likely brave the weather and other obstacles. If Dean wins in Iowa, both Gephardt and Kerry are in big trouble, and Gephardt in particular could decide to forfeit any further effort to become the nominee, leaving retired Army General **Wesley Clark**, who has had a surge in national polls recently, to fight it out with Kerry and Connecticut Senator **Joseph Lieberman** for second place in New Hampshire, a state where Dean also holds a solid lead.

It is Clark that many Democratic strategists, who fear that Dean has little or no chance of defeating Bush, seem to be turning to in an effort to stop the former Vermont governor whose campaign has been troubled recently by repeated political missteps and off-the-cuff statements. Even if Dean wins in Iowa, he has to worry about Clark in New Hampshire despite his lead there which some say is as large as 15 percentage points.

It's do-or-die time for



Mayor Gavin Newsom, right, after taking the oath of office with his father, Judge William Newsom, and wife, Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom.

Gephardt on Monday in Iowa and I'm hoping the guy wins; he's the guy, along with Clark, who has a real chance of unseating Bush in November.

## Politics and people

**Gavin Newsom**, San Francisco's new mayor, looks to be off to a good start with his appointments of **Joanne Hayes-White** to the high-profile position as fire chief and out lesbian **Heather Hiles** to the school board.

Newsom's low-key inaugural on Thursday, January 8 was just what the city needed after eight years of **Willie Brown** flash, but many were left wondering whose idea it was to have actress-director **Joan Chen** (*The Joy Luck Club*) serve as mistress of ceremonies.

They're still joking over Chen's butchering of some of the region's top names (and she's from San Francisco?) — **Beevan Dufty**, **Susan Leel**, **Jack McGoldrick**, **Dianne Feinstein**, and it only got worse when she referred to outgoing Mayor Brown as "Brown Lewis" (?). Didn't anyone go over the script with the actress? One woman was overheard snapping: "I hope she works out of Los Angeles; she's had her last gig in this town." At one point Chen gamely asked if she was getting the names right; state Democratic Party Chair **Art Torres**, standing in the crowd, hollered back, "No!"

Queer eye for the straight guy? A photographer for the *Sacramento Bee* last week caught Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) doing a last-minute adjustment of Speaker-elect **Fabian Nunez**'s (D-Los Angeles) necktie before Nunez addressed the Assembly and ran the photo in full color in the *Bee*.

Both Democratic San Francisco Assemblymen **Leland Yee** (District 12) and **Mark Leno** (District 13) have smooth sailing in the March 2 primary and Board of Equalization Chairwoman **Carole Migden** (D) is assured of the state Senate nomination (and subsequent November election) to replace termed-out state Senator **John Burton** (D) in the Third District.

And despite those all-impor-

tant Monday caucuses in Iowa, at least two of the presidential candidates — the Reverend **Al Sharpton** and Ohio Congressman **Dennis Kucinich** — along with representatives of the others are expected to attend the California Democratic Convention this weekend, January 16-18 at the Convention Center in San Jose.

California first lady **Maria Shriver** (or as Joan Chen said, "Shriver") may be soon be joining the ranks of the unemployed; the *New York Daily News* reported that NBC News executives are none too happy with the sometime Dateline NBC anchor and correspondent who returned to work after her husband's election. Apparently some at NBC are worried about her duties as wife of the governor (she's reportedly been a bit too active at twisting legislative arms in behalf of her husband's budget) and though NBC denies they are about to fire the first lady, they are said to be suggesting she might want to take a leave during Schwarzenegger's term as governor so as not to conflict with the network's ethics guidelines.

New Jersey last week became the fifth state to recognize domestic partnerships in some form, though the New Jersey legislation is short of marriage and of the civil unions allowed in Vermont. N.J. Governor **James McGreevey** (D), a supporter of gay rights, signed the law Monday. New Jersey joins Hawaii, Vermont, California, and Massachusetts in moving toward marital recognition for committed gay couples.

The *Sacramento Bee*'s longtime respected political columnist **Dan Walters** dedicated an entire column last week to the "legacy" of former San Francisco Mayor **Willie Brown** and was none to kind to our Willie. Walters: "Newspaper articles have reviewed Brown's long, event-filled political career, celebrated his personal flamboyance — his clothes, his dashing lifestyle, his parade of female companions — and tried to assess his legacy, but even the most generous journalistic chroniclers could find precious little of the latter." Walters even managed to take a swipe at the new Republican governor, saying "with [Arnold] Schwarzenegger's love of the spotlight, his deal-making, and his somewhat devious tactics, one wonders whether [Willie]

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# Who was Robert Duncan?

by Liz Highleyman

January 1919 (85 years ago this month): Poet Robert Duncan is born in Oakland, California

Although less well-known than Walt Whitman or Allen Ginsberg, poet Robert Duncan's literary work has influenced countless queer artists, and his 1944 essay, "The Homosexual in Society," was one of the earliest expressions of gay liberation.

Duncan was born in January 1919 in Oakland, California. His mother died in childbirth and his father, a laborer, was unable to raise him. His adoptive parents, adherents of theosophy (an occult religion), consulted the infant's astrological chart to ensure a propitious family match.

Encouraged by a high school teacher, Duncan began writing poetry as a teenager. In 1936, he entered the University of Califor-

nia at Berkeley, where he adopted leftist politics and a bohemian lifestyle. Two years later, he left the university to follow his lover, Ned, to the East Coast. Living in New York City and Woodstock, New York, he became part of an artistic circle that included painter Virginia Admiral and film critic Pauline Kael (both friends from Berkeley) and writers Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin.

Duncan was aware of his homosexuality from an early age and was nicknamed "Sissy" by his classmates. Nin described him as "a strikingly beautiful boy" with "a faunish expression." In New York, he worked as a hustler and had affairs with numerous men. Among them were Nin's cousin, Paul, and painter Robert De Niro, who was Admiral's live-in lover and later husband (their union produced the well-known actor). Duncan was drafted in 1941, but was soon discharged after admitting his homosexuality. "I am an officially certified fag now," he wrote. Nevertheless, in 1943 he married his friend Marjorie McKee — a relationship that ended in divorce several months later — and had a brief career as a gigolo in Florida.

In August 1944, Duncan published "The Homosexual in Society" in the leftist journal *Politics*. In his groundbreaking essay, Duncan decried the destructive effects of homophobia, especially on artists. "Although in private conversation, at every table, at every

editorial board, one knows that a great body of modern art is created by what almost amounts to a homosexual cult," he wrote, "critics who might possibly view the homosexual with a more humane eye seem agreed that it is better that nothing be said." But Duncan disparaged what he viewed as an insular "homosexual cult of superiority," urging gay men to "disown all the special groups (nations, religions, sexes, races)" and devote themselves to the "struggle of all humanity for freedom."

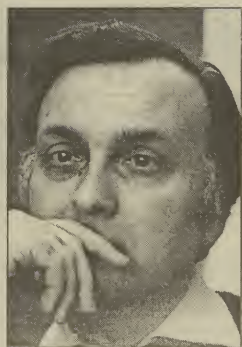
*Politics* editor Dwight Macdonald had warned Duncan against publishing the essay under his own name, but Duncan felt that "the whole thing has no meaning if it is not signed." After it appeared, he faced criticism from many fronts. Fellow homosexuals accused Duncan of betrayal and self-hatred, while *Kenyon Review* editor John Crowe Ransom refused to publish a previously accepted and typeset poem, calling it an "obvious homosexual advertisement."

In 1946, Duncan returned to the Bay Area, where he became a major figure in the poetry scene known as the San Francisco Renaissance. He developed friendships with gay poets Jack Spicer and Robin Blaser, and was a regular at Kenneth Rexroth's literary and political salons. Duncan — who was several years older than the Beat poets and stood apart

from their milieu — came to be seen as a sort of guru for the young queer poets drawn to the city by the intellectual, cultural, and sexual ferment of the day. Duncan, Spicer, and Blaser "not only kept alive a public homosexual presence in their own work, but ... carried into the contemporary culture the tradition of homosexual art," gay poet Stan Persky later recalled, thus helping create "a social milieu in which it was possible to be gay."

Indeed, Duncan's poems often included overt — and sometimes explicit — references to homosexuality, as in one of his best-known works, "The Torso": "Gathering me, you gather / your Self / for my Other is not a woman but a man / the king upon whose bosom let me lie." Many of Duncan's later works celebrated his domestic life with Jess Collins, his lover and collaborator for 35 years. [Jess, as he was known, died last week at the age of 80.]

In the mid-1950s, Duncan taught at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, a haven for queer and radical writers and artists. Back in the Bay Area, he directed the Poetry Center at San Francisco State College and later helped create the poetics program at New College of California. His antiwar poems were hailed during



Poet Robert Duncan

the Vietnam era, and as the gay liberation movement burgeoned, he gained acclaim as one of the first openly homosexual writers and intellectuals.

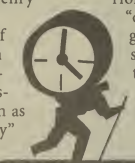
By the time of his death from kidney disease in 1988, Duncan had been recognized as an important American poet, having won a Guggenheim fellowship and the National Poetry Award. Yet he remains surprisingly little known within the contemporary queer community. With his interest in paganism, shamanism, anarchism, and drag, Duncan prefigured the emergence of the Radical Faeries in the 1970s, and the debate he initiated about narrow civil rights versus the larger struggle for human liberation remains relevant to this day. ▼

## Suggested reading

Duncan, Robert. 1993. *Selected Poems*, edited by Robert Berthoff (New Directions).

Faas, Ekbert. 1983. *Young Robert Duncan: Portrait of the Poet as Homosexual in Society* (Black Sparrow Press).

Rumaker, Michael. 1997. *Robert Duncan in San Francisco* (Grey Fox Press).



Past Out

## Pride 2004 gets going

Important deadlines coming up for this year's event

by Zak Szymanski

With just six months to go until Pride month, a new Pride logo has been unveiled, headliners and special guests are being considered, and nominations for this year's Pride Parade community grand marshals are getting under way.

This year's Pride theme is "Out 4 Justice" and organizers promise more of a political focus as well as continued improvements around community input and participation and the pace and flow of the actual parade.

Know an individual or group that has fought on the front lines and has helped to expand civil rights, visibility, and diversity? Submit their names to the Pride Committee by January 31 for consideration for community grand marshal.

"With this year's theme, Out 4 Justice, and an impending presidential election, the ground is fertile with potential candidates," said a statement from Pride.

"From labor, health, and pro-choice activists to peace, sexual liberation, and human rights workers, the LGBT community has produced leaders for many justice movements," added Pride President Joey Cain. "This year's theme gives us a chance to recognize and honor those members of our community who work for social and economic justice in the greater human community."

Grand marshal nominations are being accepted in the cate-

gories of organization and individual; nominees may also be submitted for the "Pink Brick" award, an antiaward bestowed upon the year's biggest hater and/or homophobe. The public votes on these nominees during scheduled polling in the spring. The public is also welcome to make suggestions for celebrity grand marshal, although it is the Pride Committee that chooses the grand marshals in that category.

Mail, fax, or submit your nominations online by the end of this month. Send nominations to Grand Marshal Nominations, PMB 421, 1230 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102; fax them to (415) 864-5889; or visit <http://www.sfpdpride.org/yourvoice/gmvote.htm>. In order to be valid, nominations must include a brief biography of the nominee and contact details for the nominee.

In other Pride news, this year's logo features an image of an open door with all the colors of the rainbow streaming through; the image is available to download at [www.sfpdpride.org](http://www.sfpdpride.org), under the "logo" link.

Additionally, those interested in marching or hosting booths at the event should take steps to reserve their places. Application forms for marching contingents and exhibitors are available at <http://www.sfpdpride.org/beapart/forms.htm>. All fees will be waived for nonprofit organizations with annual budgets under \$100,000 provided they apply by April 2.

Pride 2004 will take place over the June 26-27 weekend. ▼

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# Their better halves

by Paula Martinac

As the race for the White House heats up and the squabbles among the leading contenders – all straight white men in suits – become tiring, I find myself wishing that some of their wives were running instead. The women behind the men are often more politically interesting than the candidates we actually get to choose from.

For me, this isn't a new revelation. Back in 2000, I supported Bill Bradley for president – all the while thinking that his wife, Ernestine, would be a better, more progressive candidate, if only she had been eligible for the job (she wasn't born in the United States). The thoughtful, intelligent college professor wasn't afraid to publicly criticize her husband's refusal to support same-sex marriage rights and to state that he had a long way to go in his thinking on the issue.

That same year, I was thrilled to cast a vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton for a U.S. Senate seat for New York, as she finally emerged from her place behind Bill. Her own political ambitions had long seemed clear – but thwarted by the reality of how far women can go in national politics on their own.

The truth is, white men have been in political power in Washington way too long. As a result, their confidence in their deeply entrenched power seems to have left more and more of them bereft of ideas. The "vision" of the current administration, for example, is to turn the clock back to the good old days, before the social programs of Franklin D. Roosevelt were implemented. In this "original" train of thinking, the last great American president was



William Howard Taft (whose accomplishments are so numerous, I bet you can't narrow them down and name even one).

Interestingly, much of the spark behind FDR's truly radical social agenda came from his intrepid wife, Eleanor – the first lady, you'll recall, whom Hillary Clinton took as her role model (and was belittled for doing so). The second volume of historian Blanche Wiesen Cook's excellent biography of Eleanor chronicles FDR's reliance on his wife's ideas and intellect: "little of significance was achieved without her input," Cook states categorically, "and her vision shaped the best of his presidency."

It's a sad commentary on the state of women's rights in this country that 70 years after Eleanor moved into the White House, women must still content themselves with the first lady spot instead of being able to gain the Oval Office. How many among us, for example, have taken Carol Moseley Braun seriously as a presidential contender? Her campaign has so little money the former senator

reportedly drives herself to events on the campaign trail in a rental car. Yet of the nine Democrats running for the White House, Moseley Braun is one of the most progressive; as an indicator, she's among the three who have supported equal marriage rights. Particularly striking is that Moseley Braun recently hired feminist leader (and out bisexual) Patricia Ireland as her campaign manager.

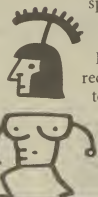
And once again this year, some of the Democratic candidates' wives are bolder and more outspoken than their husbands. I've been particularly impressed by Dr. Judith Steinberg Dean, who has refused to give up her medical practice to follow husband Howard around on the campaign trail, like other political wives do; her patients who are ill, she contends, need her. It makes me like candidate Dean more because he is married to such a strong woman, whom he calls "a role model for America."

Also noteworthy is Teresa Heinz Kerry, who is in some ways a more interesting a figure than her husband, Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts). Born in Mozambique, fluent in several languages, and trained as a U.N. translator, she's been an outspo-

ken advocate for the environment and for the arts. She once considered a Senate run herself, after her first husband, Senator John Heinz, a moderate Pennsylvania Republican, died in a plane crash. But she decided against it, concluding that "today's most creative thinking is not happening in Washington." Living proof of her statement is the guy who won Heinz's seat – Senator Rick Santorum, of "man on dog" infamy.

In a strange way, we can glean some hope for the future of

women's rights from these very examples. Even 10 years ago, it would not have been possible to conceive of a first lady like Dr. Steinberg Dean, who expects to keep her day job even if her husband wins the general election. And 10 years ago, Hillary Clinton was being pilloried for taking an active role in her husband's administration instead of baking cookies. Now, according to a recent poll, George W. Bush is the most admired person in the country – but Senator Clinton is second. ▼



## Lesbian Notions

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## Harassment

◀ page 4

was the first comprehensive survey of antigay harassment in the state. It analyzed data from the California Healthy Kids Survey, as well as an independent companion survey by the CSSC, a statewide network of experts and advocates working to implement the 2000 antiharassment law.

According to Stephen Russell, Ph.D., of the 4-H Center for Youth Development at the University of California at Davis, students who suffer harassment based on their sexual orientation or gender non-conformity are three times more likely to miss school and more than twice as likely to be depressed or consider suicide. Such students are also more likely to make low grades, use drugs or alcohol, and be victims of violence, the CHKS study found.

The CSSC companion survey revealed that two-thirds of LGBT students reported harassment based on sexual orientation, with nearly half experiencing repeated harassment. Nearly 30 percent reported harassment because they were not considered sufficiently masculine or feminine.

Almost half of non-queer students surveyed reported that their schools were not safe for their LGBT classmates. More than 90 percent said they had heard peers making negative remarks or slurs related to sexual or gender identity, while over 40 percent had heard teachers making negative comments. In particular, half said their schools were not safe for boys who were less masculine than their peers.

In addition, the CSSC survey found that steps taken by schools – including posting and enforcing antiharassment policies, training teachers and staff to intervene when

they hear antigay remarks, and supporting campus gay straight alliances – can reduce harassment and make students feel safer.

"The report clearly shows how vital it is for school districts to implement state law to provide a safe learning environment for all students," said Caitlan Ryan of San Francisco State University, a member of the CSSC steering committee. "The costs of unsafe schools are very high in terms of suffering and loss of potential." ▼

## Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

Brown has been his tutor." Walters ended the negative column with asking: "Could Arnold Schwarzenegger be Willie Brown's true legacy?" Ouch.

And my "Quote of the Week" comes from state Senator John Burton, on how he and the GOP governor plan to work together on

the new budget; Burton would rather see some tax increases than cuts in social programs and had this to say about his relationship with Arnold: "I think we can have a good working relationship, but it depends on how the hell he wants to do it and who he wants to pay for it; if he wants to balance the budget on the backs of the poor, I don't think so. Not as long as I'm here."

And how was your week? ▼

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# Gay lawmakers and AIDS groups vow to fight state budget plan

by Matthew S. Bajko

Within hours of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger releasing his proposed budget Friday, January 9, gay lawmakers and state AIDS groups voiced their opposition to plans to restrict access to AIDS medications and cut funding to HIV services.

"Governor Schwarzenegger must not balance the budget on the backs of low-income people living with HIV. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is a life-saving, essential health care program and must be protected even in difficult budget years," said Anne Donnelly, director of public policy for Project Inform. "To allow people in need of medication that could save their lives to languish on a waiting list is unconscionable."

Last week the governor presented a \$76 billion state budget for fiscal year 2004-2005, calling it a responsible plan that "puts California on a path to recovery."

He squarely laid blame on ousted Governor Gray Davis and the Democratic-controlled Legislature, arguing that years of over-spending left the state with billions of dollars in debt that he inherited when he took office.

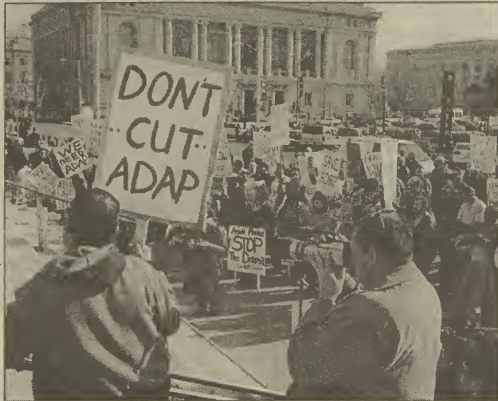
"Over the past five years, the politicians have made a mess of the California budget," said the governor. "While state revenues

grew by 25 percent, spending increased by 43 percent. Because Sacramento didn't control spending, we have an inherited debt of \$22 billion and we face a \$14 billion deficit in this budget."

As part of his plan to close that gap, Schwarzenegger proposed a 2 percent cut — \$6.6 million — in overall HIV/AIDS funding; 10 percent cuts in Medi-Cal provider rates; and rolling back enrollment in the state's ADAP from 26,000 to close to 24,000. The program provides HIV/AIDS drug therapies to low-income Californians with little or no health insurance. AIDS groups argue restricting people's access to life-saving drugs is a death sentence.

"The state's fiscal crisis may require sacrifices all around, but limiting access to ADAP could cost people with HIV/AIDS their health, and ultimately their lives," said AIDS Project Los Angeles Executive Director Craig E. Thompson in a statement. "The HIV/AIDS community is ready to make sacrifices that will contribute to the overall health of California. But decisions about ADAP will need a more deliberative process than we have seen to date."

"The governor wisely consulted with the education community before carving \$2 billion in cuts out of their budget," Thompson said. "It is simply not cost effective in the short or long term to cap enrollment in this program. We



A large crowd of about 300 activists protest Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget cuts Tuesday outside the State Building in San Francisco.

look forward to working together with the governor in the same spirit of cooperation to find more acceptable solutions to funding ADAP."

In FY 2004-05, it is estimated that ADAP needs an additional \$45 million due to increased enrollment, the use of additional drugs by current enrollees, and increased drug prices. Schwarzenegger did not include any increase in funding for ADAP in his budget proposal; instead, he proposed to cap enrollment in the program at its current level of 23,900 individuals.

AIDS groups warn such a cap will result in HIV medications being denied to more than 1,400 people in FY 04-05 as well as reduced benefits for existing enrollees. By doing so, they argue the governor is only adding to the state's financial problems.

"Studies show that without access to appropriate treatment, health outcomes for people with HIV are much worse. As people get sicker and sicker, the state will face dramatically increased costs in the form of emergency and acute care," said Ellen LaPointe, Project Inform's executive director. "It is disappointing that the governor has not only chosen to ignore this, but has gone further to propose additional cuts. We believe this recommendation is shortsighted, and disregards the needs of thousands who are depending on the governor for their continued well-being."

AIDS activists took to the streets Tuesday, with 300 people protesting the proposed budget in front of the State Building in San Francisco. Demonstrations have been staged across the state, and more are planned over the coming months.

Lawmakers are already gearing

up to fight the proposed AIDS funding cuts. Assemblyman John Laird, (D-Santa Cruz), is leading the fight to save ADAP.

"I think it will be an uphill battle but it is doable," said Laird in an interview this week. "The governor has presented the budget as a fixed pie: anything you add back in you have to subtract from somewhere else."

Last year AIDS activists and legislators were able to broker a deal to kill a proposed copayment plan for ADAP. Laird said he is hopeful he can do the same to the enrollment cap.

"I am determined that nobody that needs life-saving drugs through ADAP" will be denied those medicines, he said.

Carole Migden, chairwoman of the state Board of Equalization, assailed Schwarzenegger for what she called taking "the easy way out, hurting defenseless people instead of making difficult choices. This is the Republicans' easy way of budgeting — you just cut health care to the poor instead of making tough decisions."

Before making such cuts, Migden proposed that the Republicans in the Legislature work with Democratic lawmakers to raise revenues to minimize the size of the proposed cuts. Schwarzenegger has vowed not to raise taxes, but he did raise numerous parks fees and tuition at the state's colleges and universities in order to balance the budget.

"There are nearly \$1 billion in outdated tax credits on the books in California right now which don't stimulate our economy or create jobs. We should work in a bipartisan fashion to eliminate these bogus tax breaks before we enact heartless cuts," argued Migden.

The governor's budget is now in the hands of the Legislature, which is sure to make changes and will be holding budget hearings in the coming weeks. Schwarzenegger is also likely to make changes to his budget when he announces revisions in May. ▼

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The BJE administers this financial aid program on behalf of the Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund and Albert and Janet Schultz Supporting Foundation. Financial assistance for West Bay families comes from the Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund and the Albert and Janet Schultz Foundation. Financial assistance for East Bay families comes from the Bernard and Esther Adler Hurwitz Summer Campship Fund, the Center for Jewish Living and Learning of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay, and the Federation's Family of Funds - Summer Camp Scholarships Fund.



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## Gay marriage

◀ page 1

ifornians based on their sexual orientation, giving in to the destructive stereotype that same-sex relationships are inherently inferior to opposite-sex relationships," stated Leno, who chairs the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus. "This bill will ensure that our state treats our loving, committed relationships with the respect they deserve."

Openly gay Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) said he will co-sponsor the legislation. A member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which will be the legislative body to first vote on the bill, Laird said the chances for passage are relatively good.

"I think we have been fighting so many defensive battles, it is time to be affirmative, and rather than spending tremendous political resources on fending off bad proposals, we have to have good ones out there to support," said Laird.

Leno's bill comes as the issue of gay marriage heats up across the country. In Congress, conservatives are pushing a federal consti-

tutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. Both President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have indicated they are supportive of the measure. The president has not explicitly endorsed the amendment, and Cheney told a Denver newspaper last week that he would stand by the president's decision.

In state capitols in Arizona, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts lawmakers are embroiled in fierce debates over how to recognize same-sex couples. This week, after New Jersey Governor James McGreevey signed into law a domestic partners bill modeled after California's, gay activists said they would now push for marriage.

In Massachusetts, legislators are scrambling to meet a May deadline imposed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to allow same-sex couples to marry. Gay leaders in Rochester, New York have also made moves to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Numerous states are bracing for a showdown with gay couples who marry in Canada, where two provinces last year lifted bans on

page 19 ►



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Palm Springs AIDS group under fire

by David Batterson

The board of Desert AIDS Project in Palm Springs, California has initiated an internal investigation of alleged misconduct regarding funds and operations at the nonprofit organization, and brought in a temporary deputy executive director to take the helm and review its operations.

In a statement released by DAP, the agency announced "an interim reorganization of operations" and "an internal review of procedures and policies." Board President Dr. Andrew Silver made the announcement.

DAP Executive Director John Brown was placed on administrative leave until the investigation is complete, according to the board.

"We have been made aware of certain allegations with regard to elements of the internal operations at the project, and have advanced a plan already under way to include the addition of additional senior management," Silver said.

Silver said that Warner Engdahl, a former board president, has immediately assumed the interim position of deputy executive director.

"Warner's long experience with DAP and hospital administration will be a major asset in reviewing the overall operations currently in place," Silver stated. In Brown's absence, Engdahl will have "all DAP operations and personnel reporting to him."

Silver released a statement Monday, January 12, saying "certain allegations regarding its internal operations were brought forward by a former employee. The services of Marc Roberts of Roberts & Associates, employment and labor attorneys, and Brabo Carlsen & Cahill, LLP, certified public accountants, have been secured. The investigation is ongoing."

In a January 13 statement, DAP said, "It is hoped that the board will receive the initial results on or about January 27, and a preliminary statement should be released at that time."

The visibly shaken board president told the *Bay Area Reporter*: "We want to move on this in a thorough manner. I think the faster we can get back to focusing on HIV/AIDS and our clients, the better things will be."

Brown was in Washington, D.C., when the story broke Friday, January 9 on Palm Springs television station KPSP-TV. The station quoted Brown as saying he was unaware of the allegations made by the ex-employee.

The ex-employee, Ian Branyon, worked in the accounting department at DAP. The agency couldn't comment on whether Branyon was fired or resigned. "Due to employer-employee relations, we are not allowed to say." Calls to Branyon were not returned at press time. Silver wouldn't comment on whether other employees have provided information.

As for dollar amounts, Silver told the *B.A.R.*: "There's not an estimate; that's why the CPA firm has been called in to look at that. Accountants are looking at the information they need to and the attorneys will look into HR issues, policies, and procedures, then will be deciding who, if anyone, they need to speak to on staff."

Silver added: "Once you go through this process, it's important to take a look at the agency as

a whole, and see the procedures and policies in place, including the procedures and policies as far as the board is concerned."

Silver elaborated on why a deputy executive director is needed at DAP. "When you are growing by 300-plus clients a year, when you have gone from no employees to 15 employees to now over 80 employees, and a budget of over \$8 million, you need to take a closer look. You need," he said, "more upper management people in place, especially to be involved with the day-to-day operations."

The position of deputy executive director of programs is listed on the organization's Web site, with a starting annual salary of \$77,500. The job description outlines the position duties: "Manage daily operations of all program services departments, under the general supervision of the executive director. Supervise medical services, case management, education/prevention, and social service departments."

Furthermore, the deputy execu-

tive director will "work closely with administrative/fiscal staff to monitor and evaluate systems of accountability for projects, including budget compliance, review of procedures and internal/external audits."

## Previous scandal

The agency experienced a previous scandal involving misuse of funds. Embezzlement and forgery charges were made in 2002 against 54-year-old John O'Brien, a former finance director. He later pleaded guilty to bilking the agency of more than \$120,000 during a two-year span from March 1999 to December 2001.

Rumors about mismanagement at the agency had circulated for some months in Palm Springs. Also, there have been reports of cronyism involving staff hiring at DAP.

Asked if some good will come about as a result of the investigation, Silver replied: "That is absolute. No AIDS organization ever wants to go through something like this, because it just then tends

to bring out prejudices that have long been buried.

"We have been very fortunate to have a very loyal group of donors, supports, volunteers and staff," he added. "We are doing everything in our power from a board standpoint to maintain that, because without those groups of people the agency will not thrive."

DAP has earned a national reputation as one of the most comprehensive HIV/AIDS services providers in the United States. It is one of only a handful of AIDS agencies operating an on-site medical clinic, full range of client support services, and a comprehensive HIV education and prevention program, including anonymous HIV testing.

The agency offers primary medical care through its Wells Fargo HIV Health Center. DAP provides education and prevention services for schools, civic organizations, businesses, churches, and health organizations throughout Coachella Valley.

The goal of the HHC is to pro-

vide access to high-quality, comprehensive HIV primary medical care for all HIV-diagnosed clients who live in the DAP service region. The specific objective is to provide primary medical care to 1,200 patients.

The nonprofit AIDS organization, founded in 1984, formerly leased a much smaller building on Vella Road in Palm Springs. It now owns the large facility it occupies at the corner of Sunrise Way and Vista Chino Drive.

The DAP 2002 annual report lists income of \$7,501,692 (a 12 percent increase over 2001), with expenses of \$7,021,660. The expense breakdown was 65 percent for programs, 13 percent for fundraising/special events, 11 percent for management and general, 7 percent for thrift stores, and 4 percent for building operations.

DAP has numerous corporate sponsors, including Wells Fargo, Time Warner Cable, Walgreens, Roche, Union Bank of California, and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. ▼

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## HIV STOPS WITH ME.ORG



## Mayor Newsom

◀ page 1

I said to myself, 'Does the gay community wish to be considered an ethnic group?' As a San Franciscan I know gays of all ethnicities," said Starr. "So I am terribly sorry if anyone is offended. You can see my point of view. You can't consider the gay community ethnic."

### United in anger

But the lack of inclusion of the gay community has both the mayor's detractors, as well as his LGBT supporters, expressing outrage over the piece.

"I was appalled that the LGBT community was omitted. I read through the entire piece twice thinking I had overlooked it," said Calvin Gipson, a member of the city's LGBT Pride Committee who supported Newsom. "As an African American I appreciate how they talked about the immigration of African Americans. The majority of people in the LGBT community are also immigrants. We come to San Francisco because it is a place we can find freedom."

Gipson said not to have gays included is an insult.

"I am surprised that Gavin Newsom's committee did not recognize that before it was published," he said. "I definitely believe that there should be some type of public acknowledgment from the mayor's office. The queer community is owed an apology."

Tommi Avicoli Mecca, a vocal detractor of the new mayor, also expressed outrage at the piece.

"It certainly is a slap in the face to our community. No doubt about it," he told the B.A.R. the day after the inaugural.

"I think the level of outrageousness is unprecedented," added Robert Haaland, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Demo-

cratic Club who opposed Newsom's run for mayor. "To completely dismiss a community like that obviously is not a good sign. The egregiousness of it is pretty breathtaking."

Haaland said one wants to give people the benefit of the doubt but the piece was so obviously an insult to the LGBT community that he wondered how no one on Newsom's inaugural committee could have caught it.

"The fact that the LGBT community wasn't mentioned comes from a sort of unconscious and frequently institutionalized lack of inclusion of the LGBT community," said Haaland.

This week, Avicoli Mecca posted a column to the SF Sentinel Web site attacking Newsom and the Starr essay. In an interview, he listed Newsom's other "slaps in the face" to the gay community, including bringing in former President Bill Clinton, the signer of antigay laws concerning gays in the military and federal marriage rights; the arrest of Gay Shame protesters at Newsom events; the lack of transgenders on his transition team; and the lack of gay rights being mentioned on Newsom's campaign Web site.

"I don't think Newsom is homophobic. I don't think our issues really are that important for him," Avicoli Mecca said. "He sees us as a constituency he needs to get elected. Beyond that, I don't think he has a grasp of what our issues are."

Bevan Dufty, the openly gay supervisor from the Castro and a good friend of Newsom's, also took note of Starr's failure to mention the gay community. On Tuesday, January 13 he sent Starr a letter that praised the noted historian for his "wonderful essay" on how the city draws strength from its diversity.

But then Dufty added, "So, it was surprising to have no men-

tion of the rich and historic contributions to our city by the LGBT community. San Francisco has been an international beacon of hope, opportunity, and refuge for the LGBT community since the end of the Second World War."

In addition to stating Japanese Americans and the labor movement are "also worthy of recognition" for their contributions, Dufty asked Starr to "include the contributions of our community in this essay and future writings about San Francisco."

The matter also made it before the Board of Supervisors Tuesday when openly gay Supervisor Tom Ammann introduced a measure to address the oversight in Starr's essay. The resolution, co-sponsored by Dufty, honors "the contributions of LGBT people to the history and development of San Francisco."

Starr maintains that gay people are included in his essay, just obliquely.

"Anytime I mention an ethnic group in that essay I include gay people in that," he said. "Ask me to

envision a gay person I don't envision an ethnic person. I envision any number of human beings, white, black, Asian."

He also said that the inaugural ceremony's flag parade would have put his essay in a better context if it had gone as planned. Each time a different ethnic group was named, Starr said a child dressed in a traditional costume was to have walked out with a San Francisco flag. Due to time constraints, the children instead appeared as one group on a City Hall balcony with no introduction or explanation.

His piece was written to that pageant of flags, explained Starr.

"I don't want to be smeared personally on this issue," said Starr, noting his office has donated \$265,000 in grants to LGBT historical groups.

Defending his embrace of the gay community, Newsom and his supporters point to his naming openly gay and lesbian members to his administration, like Steve Kawa as his chief of staff and Joyce Newstat as a policy chief, and his

choosing to meet with gay constituents the evening of his swearing-in. Newsom also named out lesbian Heather Hiles to the school board on Monday. [See story, page 3.]

But Newsom's decision not to hire a mayor's liaison to the LGBT community is only adding to the barbs being hurled at him. Instead, the duties of the post will be assigned to the director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Joe Caruso. Caruso, who is openly gay, said the decision was due to the city's budget deficit.

"I will be both the director and liaison to the LGBT community for right now," said Caruso, who also noted two of his district liaisons are gay.

Having worked on Newsom's inaugural staff, Caruso said he was not offended by the essay Asner read. Caruso insisted the mayor has a proven track record of being an ally of the gay community.

"You can't say the gay community isn't important to this mayor," said Caruso. "The proof is going to be in the pudding." ▼

## Kamala Harris

◀ page 5

district attorney's office, and others have expressed concern that some gay and gay-friendly staff members would be let go under a new administration. Many of her supporters, however, say that unlike some political officials, Harris will not conduct business on the basis of favors or vengeance.

### Who's in, who's out

In contrast to many offices that usher in new leaders at the peril of long-term employees, there has been no haphazard firing of dedicated attorneys with the arrival of Harris as district attorney.

"Kamala has been meeting with each person in the office, one on one. She wants to talk with everybody about what they are working on and what their goals are," Debbie Mesloe, Harris's press secretary, told the Bay Area Reporter.

Harris has already brought Mesloe on board, as well as Russ Giuntini as chief deputy; Lou Landini as chief investigator; and Martha Knutzen to manage office technology.

But any further decisions about changes to staff will not be made for another couple of weeks, said Mesloe.

LGBT community activists in particular have wondered about the fate of assistant district attorney David Merin and the openly gay senior criminal investigator Ron Huberman, both of whom have been crucial forces in the ongoing prosecution of alleged hate crime perpetrator Jack Broughton.

Broughton, of Walnut Creek, is charged with felony hate crime and assault for reportedly attacking two women outside the San Francisco Drag King contest of 2002; witnesses say Broughton repeatedly kicked one of the victims while she lay unconscious, all the while uttering homophobic remarks.

Broughton's attorneys have continued to fight the hate crime charge but it has been upheld, thanks largely to Merin's courtroom arguments that hate was a substantial factor in Broughton's undisputed violence, activists noted. Merin has also made a point to stay with the case due to his strong feelings about it, and his tenacity has paid off: this week, the Broughton case goes to trial, with jury selection beginning as soon as a courtroom is available.

Although Merin was not reached by press time, Huberman

told the B.A.R. that both men hope to remain in their positions, and that the upcoming trial — which faced numerous obstacles before reaching this point — is "a good way to start the new year."

"I believe it's important to have a lesbian and gay presence here, and I expect that Kamala Harris will be supportive of the community. So far she has been very supportive, and I expect that she would want people with some experience to continue working here," said Huberman. "I'm sure she will be looking for talented LGBT attorneys and investigators to apply as well."

Another assistant district attorney that LGBT community members are hoping will stay on staff is Jim Hammer, who prosecuted the now-infamous dog mauling trial on behalf of victim Dianne Whipple.

In January 2001, Whipple, 33 was attacked and killed in the hallway of her apartment building by two Presa Canario dogs belonging to her neighbors Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller. The nationally ranked athlete and high school lacrosse coach was survived by her lesbian partner, Sharon Smith, who later turned her grief into activism to fight for LGBT partner recognition rights.

It was Hammer's ability to demonstrate Noel and Knoller's responsibility for the attack that led to a historic second-murder conviction against Knoller.

Although Knoller's conviction was later overturned in favor of involuntary manslaughter, the case was responsible for several groundbreaking legal and societal shifts, including the recognition of lesbian couplehood as a committed brand of partnership.

While it is not yet clear who will remain in the district attorney's office, it is clear from Harris's transition team that the new DA respects and demands diverse input to her office.

Among those on her transition team is Robert Haaland, a transgender activist and attorney known most for his housing and labor organizing.

Haaland said he believes he was invited as someone representative of activism as well as labor unions (Haaland's full-time job is with SEIU Local 790). He is not concerned, he said, about Harris's commitment to the LGBT community or other progressive matters.

"From what I've seen of her, and her inauguration, I believe that when it comes to a lot of the things I care about, she is going to

do the right thing," said Haaland, who noted that he found it particularly significant that Harris opted to take her oath of office with her hand upon the Bill of Rights, and that her inaugural speech specifically mentioned her commitment to diversion programs as well as medical marijuana rights.

### First steps

Last Thursday, Harris spoke of a new era for the prosecutor's office, one which would pursue justice instead of the standard political rhetoric that has defined how a community fights crime.

"Let's put an end right here to the question about whether we're tough on crime or soft on crime. Let us be smart on crime," she said.

In addition to affirming her commitment to medical marijuana, many LGBTs were also pleased that she pledged to fight police and government corruption; address quality of life crimes; create a homicide court to deal with backlogged cases; remove guns from the streets and from the hands of children; crack down on elder abuse and neglect; and hire and retain a staff of attorneys who reflect San Francisco's diversity.

Harris will not use the three strikes law unless dealing with a serious or violent crime, she said, and will never charge the death penalty. However, she was clear that "anyone who commits rape, molests a child, commits murder, or does any other violent act will meet the most severe consequences and will be removed from this community so that they can do no more harm."

Her immediate plans include putting into place a management system that will improve conviction rates for serious and violent felonies. And in the next 60 days, Harris promised to complete an audit of all backlogged homicide cases.

Forging a good working relationship with law enforcement is also a top priority, she said, in order to "protect the city's most vulnerable citizens in a manner that will maintain the public's trust in the integrity of their criminal justice system."

While Harris's promises are bold, hopes are high for her success, an achievement she said can only be secured through community partnerships.

"I stand here today because of your help," Harris concluded at her inauguration. "As we go forward, I will count on each of you, on your passion, energy, and commitment to help me in this vital mission." ▼

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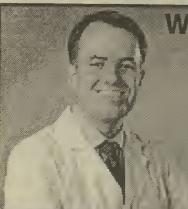


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# Chat room murder case goes to trial

by Ed Walsh

**T**wenty-two-year-old Rogelio DeChavez had no warning that his life was almost over in the summer of 2001.

Late into the night, he chatted over the Internet with Brian Misquez, also 22. The pair agreed to meet for sex the following morning in DeChavez's apartment in the quiet East Bay City of El Cerrito. He assured Misquez that they would be alone and he was worried Misquez wouldn't show up. "I hope u won't flake on me this time," DeChavez wrote at the end of their online chat.

According to a transcript of that chat obtained by the *Bay Area Reporter* through court records, the men had apparently gotten together before. They made reference to the sex they had in a previous meeting about a year earlier. They arranged to meet at another time but Misquez never showed, according to the court



Victim Rogelio DeChavez

papers. Before logging off, DeChavez copied and pasted the transcript of their chat session into a text file and saved it on his computer.

Hours after their scheduled meeting, DeChavez's body was found, obscured by blood. Police

would label the homicide "overkill." According to court records, he was stabbed more than two dozen times. DeChavez was attacked with two different knives from his kitchen. One of the knives was found plunged into his head with such force that it broke off in his skull.

It took DeChavez four to five minutes to die after the initial stab wound was inflicted, according to Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Bruce Flynn. Four to five of the stabs were inflicted after DeChavez was already dead, Flynn said.

DeChavez was a food service employee at the International House at the University of California, Berkeley and lived with his sister. She found him dead when she returned home from work. He was wrapped in a blue blanket wearing underwear, one sock, and an orange T-shirt.

Misquez was tied to the killing through fingerprints he allegedly left at the scene and through the transcript of his chat that police found on DeChavez's computer. Misquez was arrested on murder charges days after the killing in July 2001. He has been held in jail since his arrest and has pleaded not guilty. After a series of delays, the case is finally scheduled to go to trial next week in Martinez.

## Gay, but ...

At the time of the killing, Misquez was living with his girlfriend, baby son, and newborn daughter in Antioch. Within two days of the killing, he abruptly moved with



Defendant Brian Misquez

his family to live with his girlfriend's mother in Oregon where he was arrested.

Hinting of a defense strategy, Misquez's lawyer, public defense attorney Laurie Mont, told the *B.A.R.* this week that Misquez is gay but "had no gay role models" and couldn't accept his sexual orientation.

According to court papers, Misquez's girlfriend said "he didn't like homosexuals" but his girlfriend's stepfather said that he suspected that Misquez had "homosexual tendencies."

Mont insisted that the case does not justify a murder conviction.

"My client is not a predator," she told the *B.A.R.*

In a preliminary hearing held in March 2002, Mont argued that manslaughter would be the more

appropriate charge. Mont said the killing was committed in a moment of blind passion, without "malice aforethought."

"In the middle of this act," Mont said referring to her client having sex with DeChavez, "he feels this desperate shame."

When Misquez was arrested, he confessed to police that he killed DeChavez but he said he acted in self-defense to fend off a sexual assault. He also claimed that another man who he identified only as a 22-year-old white male, helped him defend himself. He said he went over to DeChavez's house to help him move. At the time of his confession, Misquez was apparently unaware that DeChavez saved a transcript of their chat. That transcript could prove to be the strongest piece of evidence against him in the case.

Mont said she would not rule out self-defense as a motive for the killing. She said that the encounter between DeChavez and Misquez could be likened to date rape. The lawyer said that although Misquez may have initially consented to sex, he may have later withdrawn that consent.

The trial is scheduled to begin Tuesday, January 20, with jury selection. Mont said the trial would last about a month and that at least two dozen witnesses would testify.

The assistant district attorney who will prosecute the case, Paul Graves, told the *B.A.R.* that he could not discuss the facts of the case. ▼

## Ross memorial

◀ page 1

be blunt. But no one ever doubted where he stood."

Representing the *B.A.R.*, leather columnist Marcus Hernandez noted that when he met Mr. Ross in 1968, he had only a few words for the recent transplant from Southern California.

"His first words were, 'So, you're an L.A. queen,'" Hernandez said.

He also spoke of the early days of the paper.

"When Bob started the *B.A.R.*, it was a little pamphlet with 15 columns of gossip," Hernandez said. "When they delivered it they dropped it and ran!"

Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin, a longtime friend, was emotional as she began, choking back tears. Mr. Ross was an early backer of Tsenin's 1996 race for a seat on what was then the municipal court bench.

"He called up and said, 'Is your face still drooping? I've got \$10,000 for you to start up your campaign,'" Tsenin said, referring to her past bout with Epstein-Barr, which had left her face temporarily partially paralyzed.

Several representatives of civic groups and charities spoke about Mr. Ross's involvement over the years. He served on the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District board for 18 years, including a two-year stint as president. Celia Kupersmith, the district's general manager, reiterated what she told the *B.A.R.* last month that Mr. Ross's leadership was instrumental in the hiring of Kupersmith and three other top district staff members while he led the board.

Patricia TeRoller, who served with Mr. Ross as a trustee of the San Francisco Ballet, hailed his support for the ballet school and noted that he often traveled with the company on its tours.

"He was my travel pal on tour," she said.

Deborah Ballati and Rick Dean, representing Meals on Wheels and Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network respectively, spoke of Mr. Ross's other charitable endeavors.

"Bob and I met through Kay [Tsenin]," Ballati said. "I liked Bob immediately - he had a twinkling eye and a very infectious laugh. And he had a bluntness and gruffness but I came to understand that."

She noted that a former execu-

tive director of Meals on Wheels said that Mr. Ross understood what it was like to be a senior and alone. "Bob just seemed to do what needed to be done," Ballati said of the organization that delivers meals to homebound seniors in the city.

Dean, who spoke on behalf of several AIDS organizations in San Francisco and Sonoma County, where Mr. Ross had a home, said that Mr. Ross used the paper to call for more services, especially in the early years of the epidemic.

"He skillfully used the power of his paper," Dean said. "The *B.A.R.*'s obituaries made it possible for us to grieve openly. In 1998, the headline in the paper read 'No obits' for the first time."

In addition to Face to Face, Mr. Ross was a strong supporter of the AIDS Emergency Fund and numerous other organizations.

Empress XXV Marlina gave an emotional speech, pointing out that Mr. Ross was the seventh Emperor of San Francisco.

"Bob cared," Marlina said. "He gave me strength, he gave me money - he's the one who taught me to give it away. I am going to miss him."



Christian Kalin

One of the most moving moments came with Mr. Ross's 10-year-old nephew, Christian Kalin, addressed the audience and talked about Mr. Ross's visits to his home in Kentucky and the Kalin family's visits to San Francisco.

"Uncle Bob was a great uncle. I will miss Uncle Bob very much," he said.

The *B.A.R.*'s Hernandez summed up his feelings for Mr. Ross.

"If it was legitimate, Bob was there to back you up," he said. "When I moved here I was barely out, divorced, etc. He once said, 'I made you a star, now act like one.' Bob, you're a legend in your own time." ▼

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# TG Latino builds better community for all

by Eric Ganther

**Who:** Prado Gomez  
**What:** Director, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida  
**Where:** 16th Street at Mission in San Francisco  
**Contact:** prado@pcpv.org or (415) 575-1646

Transgender people are the cutting edge of queer visibility and acceptance in the workplace. While "L, G, and B" people can certainly press straight people's buttons, "T" people challenge everybody's assumptions about gender identity. Transgenders provide this valuable, yet often under-appreciated, service every day, in addition to enduring the same economic reality—albeit often with more challenges—as the rest of us.

As usual, the Bay Area is the great civilizing influence for the rest of the country: trans people have gained more rights and economic opportunities here than anywhere else. But don't think the work is done. This week I interview Prado Gomez, female-to-male transgender, community builder, nonprofit director, and all-around nice guy.

**What does Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida do?**

Seven people work here and we do a variety of things that encourage and promote wellness in the queer Latino community, as well as other neighborhood communities of color, and anyone else who

feels comfortable walking through our doors: We have support groups and drop-in groups. We do street outreach. We distribute condoms. We provide one-on-one counseling, and case management for a variety of services, some HIV-related and some not. We also do a lot of referrals to other agencies.

At our spiritual core, though, we're a social space for artistic and creative projects. We firmly believe that art helps with healing, by helping people express in a variety of media: video, painting, recreational stuff, etc.

**Who are your clients?**

We're unique because we don't only work with gay and bisexual men; we also work with transgender people and women. We're multigender. We're also multiracial: we work with other communities of color because the communities are very mixed, especially among young folks.

**What are the needs of your clients?**

Each group has different needs. Youth have issues that don't get dealt with in most mainstream gay organizations, like coming out in a Latino context, dealing with families, and education, etc.

Queer immigrant men have issues like coming out, HIV, immigration, acculturation, etc. They deal with the big question of what

does it mean to be queer in a Latino context?

Transgender women have very few places that are equipped to deliver adequate, respectful, knowledgeable services to them. For non-transgenders, it's even more difficult. Most agencies are HIV care and treatment based, which tends to exclude lesbians and bisexual women. We see the need but we don't see the funding—we're committed anyway.

**What issues are you dealing with now?**

One: visibility. Two: getting funding that supports what we do without changing what we do. We don't fit into a nice little funding box.

We're unique, so it's hard to find funding sources that

match. Three: we're trying to strengthen the institution from the inside, so it can help the community for a long time. We're proud of having a comfortable, casual, easily accessible organization that is also well-organized.

**What do you do as director?**

I supervise all staff, programming, and services. I write grants. I communicate with funders. I give speeches and trainings, where I educate the broader community about our clients and their needs.

**How old are you and how long have you been a director?**



Proyecto's Prado Gomez

I'm 30. I've been director for three years.

**What kind of training have you had?**

Trial by fire! I've learned by example from the community of people around me, who do things to make life better for others. I worked at Brava Center for the Arts for seven years, helping to establish the arts education program there. We worked with young folks using art as a tool for expression, violence prevention, and education. I do not have a formal education beyond my San Francisco Unified School District high school diploma. But I have supplemented it with lots of trainings at places like Compass Point, where I learned about conflict-resolution, public speaking, grant writing and budget reading, etc.

**So a formal education isn't absolutely necessary, but do you have plans for more formal education anyway?**

Yes. I've resisted education for a long time but regardless of what direction my life takes, formal education will be valuable. I'll be the first in my family to get a university degree. My partner and her family are very supportive of my education.

**What makes a good nonprofit director?**

Flexibility and discipline. You have to be flexible to the changing needs of funding sources, as well as being able to adapt to the needs of the people you're trying to serve. You also need a good balance of vision and leadership skills—someone who can ask the right questions and give clear and informed answers. People-managing skills are a must. You have to be able to motivate employees and sometimes be the bad cop to make sure people follow through with their commitments. In a nonprofit, the staff and the board members are the ones who make things happen. Good directors support their coworkers' success.

**Who are the people you look up to?**

My mom; she survived a lot of adversity inside and outside the home, and her strength provided me with the base to get to where I am today. One of my teachers, Cherrie Moraga (author of *This Bridge Called My Back*), provides me with unconditional love and a constant challenge to accomplish my best.

**What would you recommend to someone interested in directing a nonprofit?**

In general, having emotional support and resources for the times when it gets really difficult, because it will. Nonprofit direc-

tors are always juggling 10 balls at once. I feel like I'm constantly making mistakes. Directing can be a really lonely job. So I depend on people who've been there to guide me through a particular situation: no, I'm not the only one who's ever been there; and no, I'm not a failure.

Working in social services, you must always remember why you're doing the work. This is where faith and hope face the political, financial, and interpersonal adversities.

**What's your favorite role as a nonprofit director?**

Whatever is most challenging in the moment. I love motivating staff to reach their potential. Listening. Supporting. Mediating. Refereeing. I like drawing out people's hopes and dreams for the organization, and then being a partner to their success.

**From your transgender perspective, how do men and women work differently?**

It really depends on peoples' experiences in their families. Are they the caretakers or the ones taken care of? In Latino families, women are expected to be caretakers more than men. Men are used to being taken care of. In my experience, queer people tend to be the ones who are the caretakers in their families. The ones called up to mediate the problems in their families, the ones to play the confidant, etc. It's a different way of moving through the world. Of course, there are exceptions.

As part of my transition from female to male, it's been interesting to see what men and women are expected to be authorities about. Facts, information, technical stuff—men are presumed to be authorities about this. Women are more expected to be authorities on psychology and emotion the less "practical" stuff, more nurturing.

**Do most people know you are transgender?**

I'm visible as a transgender in the queer community because I speak publicly about it. But when people don't know me, they automatically assume I'm a gay man because I'm working in an HIV organization. When you say transgender, most people think male-to-female. Sometimes I'm disappointed because it [FTM] is not even considered.

**Why is female-to-male not even considered?**

There is more room for men to be diverse in how they look. In the traditional view, you couldn't possibly be a six foot tall, deep-voiced, large-handed woman; you'd have to be a man. Whereas you could be a five foot tall, high-voiced, small-handed man. You might get teased, but there's never a doubt about your gender, whereas a large woman, whether she's transgender or not, is doubted.

Physiologically, the effects of the hormones are very different. For a lot of us guys, you can't tell at first, so you have to be told what the original gender was. For most people, it's difficult to conceive that any man you see could potentially have been born female.

**What special skills do transfolk bring to the job?**

The transgender perspective is unique and valuable on many levels: spiritual, economic, social. And different transgender people have different perspectives. For

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## JANUARY EVENTS

### Queer Movie Night

Queer flicks, guys, popcorn, guys, chat, guys. Who knows, that guy sharing your popcorn might be your next date. Snacks (and condoms) provided.

Friday, January 16, 7pm  
 @ STOP AIDS Project,  
 539 Castro St @ 18th St



### Sunday Social

Join the men of In Our Prime and Midlife Gay Men for our monthly gathering. Our guided group discussion will cover issues related to our health and well being. Come and mix, mingle and make new friends. Refreshments provided.

SUNDAY, JAN 18, 1PM  
 501 Castro St @ 18th St, upstairs



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## OBITUARIES

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## DJ Sean G

Sherman Ray Garnett, Jr., "DJ Sean G", died on Sunday, December 28, 2003 at age 34 of AIDS.

Sean worked as a DJ for the Pendulum Bar in the Castro, Funk Night at the Stud, as well as other Bay Area and California venues for the past several years. Sean served as the Resident DJ for the Soul of Pride African-American stage since its founding in 2001 for the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration.

Sean is survived by his boyfriend, Jeffrey S. Jarvie of San Francisco; his parents, Sherman R. Garnett, Sr. and Patrice A. Brown; his grandmother, Maud L. Garnett; three sisters, Sherrice Mosley, Rhonda Kirkland, and Michelle Marks all of Indianapolis, Indiana; two brothers Richard Riley, II of Norfolk, Virginia, and Bryan Garnett of Panama City, Florida; five nieces, five nephews and a host of family members, friends and fans.

A celebration of the life of Sean was held at the Pendulum Bar on January 2. In Sean's remembrance, light a candle, play your favorite Hip Hop track or gospel music and remember the warm smile and caring nature of Sean G.

## Michael Scott Glassman

10/24/63 - 1/5/04



Michael left this world for whatever waits for him on the other side at 11:45 p.m. on 1/5/04. He leaves behind him a world of sorrow and loss for all who had the privilege of knowing and loving him.

Michael was born in Brooklyn, was raised on Long Island, and went on to graduate from Yale, and study law at Boalt Hall at U.C.B. He met his partner of 12 years during his last semester at Boalt. They moved to Palm Springs after he finished law school, and they returned to the Bay Area in the spring of 1993. They lived here since, enjoying the incredibly rich cultural diversity of the City and its environs. Michael enjoyed these to the fullest, including only a week before his passing attending two theatrical performances, one at the Curran Theater, and the other at the New Conservatory Theater.

Michael is survived by his partner of 12 years, Julian Clift, of Albany, CA; his parents and brother, Stanley, Sheila, and David Glassman, of Scottsdale, AZ, and numerous other family members else-

where, both direct and in-laws: Barbara, Shelly, Debbie, Howie, Doreen, Elyse, Barry, and their multiple progeny; Jamie, Jerry, Richard, Megan, Matthew, Anne Marie, Charlie, and Olivia. The extended family is too lengthy to list here.

There will be a memorial for Michael at their home in Albany on Sunday, January 18, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. Please contact Julian at 510-914-7443 for details. In lieu of flowers, donations in Michael's name can be made to the AIDS Project of the East Bay in Oakland.

My beloved, the princess is still sleeping on the pea.

## Frances Lee Lacy

Frances Lee Lacy was born in San Francisco October 2, 1929 and passed away December 27, 2003. She was preceded in death by her parents, Theodore James Coulter and Ivy Lucille Grue Coulter. She is survived by many loving family members and friends.

Fran retired from Retail Clerks Union and then worked part time at Mazzetti's Bakery in Pacifica. She was a member of the Christian Science Church in Pacifica, an avid supporter of the arts, especially donating to the SPCA, Legion of Honor, all SF museums and the SF Zoo. She loved music, dancing, all animals (especially Cocoa and Abby), walking by the ocean and spending time with family and friends. She continues to live, love and laugh.

Donations can be made in her memory to the SPCA or the Legion of Honor.

## Paul M. Pavon



Upon his death, friends of Paul Pavon agreed they would most miss his incredible smile, his upbeat attitude, and his sincere interest in others. Paul discovered the good in everyone he encountered. There was no negativity toward anyone in his life.

Forced into early retirement when he developed rheumatoid arthritis in early middle age, Paul pursued an interest in buying and remodeling houses which enabled him to exhibit his creativity in designing additions and renovations. His homes were a source of much satisfaction and comfort.

He also developed a business locating, restoring and selling antiques to personal clients and retail dealers. He made many friendships with dealers throughout the Bay Area.

Paul had a life-long interest in gardening and landscape design. His yards were beautifully designed and impeccably maintained. He generously designed gardens for friends and provided his own labor to insure the results he wanted.

From his teens Paul was an excellent dancer, winning contests as a result. In recent years he developed an interest in country western dancing, making many friends through involvement in dance classes.

Paul expressed much pride in his three children, Paul Jr., Janine Miller, and Renee Gooby, all of Pleasanton. He was equally proud of his eight grandchildren. Paul shared 28 years with best friend and life partner Ardon Huseby who was by his side at his death.

Paul was born on May 2, 1937 in Oakland. He grew up in Castro Valley and graduated from Hayward High School. He spent his last four months in

the Cardio Vascular Intensive Care Unit at Kaiser—San Francisco before his death on December 26, 2003. He died as the result of post-surgical complications.

## Tim PeAske



Tim Peske passed away on January 6, three weeks before his 57th birthday. He died from complications following surgery performed. His large circle of friends in California, Chicago, and Milwaukee will miss him dearly.

Tim was born on January 24, 1947 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Like many gay men, he immigrated to San Francisco in 1978, immediately joining the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band as an original member. He loved playing his baritone horn in parades and concerts, something he did for years.

Tim had a number of other activities he enjoyed, including bowling. One of his passions later in life was his many real estate development projects. He left in his wake some lovingly restored properties in Chicago, San Francisco, and Palm Springs. Other loves of Tim's life included cooking shows, *The Price Is Right*, black & white TV shows, antiques, and above all else, his dog Harriet. She will miss Tim most of all.

A celebration of his life will be held in San Francisco on January 24. Donations can be made to the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band ([www.sflgfb.org](http://www.sflgfb.org)) or the Desert Winds Freedom Band of Palm Springs ([www.home.earthlink.net/~psband/](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~psband/)).

## Robert Julio Rivera



Passed from this life into the next one on Friday, October 17, 2003. He died peacefully in his sleep in his home, with his friends and family nearby. Robert had recently developed complications from an AIDS-related illness; however, until six months ago, he lived life to the fullest. He was best known for being a taxi driver here in San Francisco for many years. Catching a ride with Robert was truly a ride, to say the least.

He was an exceptional artist, dealing in both sculpture and canvas, as well as being a dancer and musician. Widely extroverted, one could often see Robert (or "Birdie" as we called him) in some outrageous outfit on his rollerblades, with his two dogs, Elmo and Lobo.

"Love, love, heal, heal," he would chant. Robert was very spiritual and compassionate. He loved life.

He is survived by his three brothers, Roger and Reynaldo Jr. of New Jersey, and Richard of Daly City, as well as his mother, Louise Rivera, of New York City, and his nieces, Bianca, Danita, and Amelia. His SF family consisted of good friends Vicki Weiss and her two boys, Jimmy and Joseph, Keith Clement, Ricci Catella, "Sugar," Jeff Marshall, Edwin Perez, Fred Jackson, Paul Williams, Andrew Brown, David Lyons, also known as Dr. Bombay, and Keith Christianson. A showing of Robert's art work and poetry will be forthcoming later this year and will benefit a local AIDS charity. For information regarding this event, or for making donations, please contact Jeff or Ricci at 415-724-2355.

## Steven Weiss

Steven Weiss, 52, of Redwood City, formerly of San Luis Obispo County, died peacefully Monday June 30, 2003 in his home. He was longtime AIDS survivor.

Steve was born December 15, 1950 in Watertown, Wisconsin. He moved to San Francisco, California in 1978, where he lived and worked until 1989. In 1989 he moved to San Luis Obispo and became involved with the local community. He joined the AIDS Support Network and for 10 years served as a volunteer and member of the board of directors. During this time he experienced the loss

of his long-time partner Lou.

In 1999 Steve moved to Redwood City with his partner Dave. There he planted his roots and began the process of reinventing himself. He became a locksmith and continued to cultivate his bond with life and God by planting a beautiful flower garden.

Steve's air of grace and spirituality made him a source of inspiration and hope to all who knew him. He is survived by his loving partner of seven years, Dave London; Dave's daughters, Tiana and Aja; three cats; his mother and family in Wisconsin; and many friends and extended family throughout California.

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# Snow way

by Jim Provenzano

As lesbian and gay skiers, snowboarders, and figure skaters travel the country this winter to enjoy snow and ice, one question pops up: What about a Gay Winter Games?

While such an event remains purely theoretical – and perhaps “on ice” – some athletes I spoke to recently expressed enthusiasm for the idea.

Athletes and organizers see the recent split between the Federation of Gay Games and Montreal 2006 as a sign that caution should be used in organizing future events. The Canadian city won a bid to host Gay Games VII, but abandoned contract negotiations last November at the federation's annual meeting.

The death of Brent Benaschak, founder of Altitude, held annually at Whistler, British Columbia, came as a shock to GLBT ski en-

thusiasts. Benaschak died suddenly December 30 at the age of 41. Benaschak's family has asked that details of his death not be released.

Benaschak was the director of Out on the Slopes that produces the event, which grew steadily over the years. This month, some 4,000 people are expected to attend Altitude, scheduled January 31 to February 9.

Packed with parties and social events, Altitude remains more of a recreational event, yet still draws a large number of participants. Many winter sports hold similar smaller annual events without official recognition.

For example, Aspen Gay and Lesbian Ski Week is America's premier weeklong gay and lesbian ski event. Held this year from January 25 - February 1, it attracts up to 3,000 participants to parties, a film festival, and events to raise funds for local nonprofits ([www.gayskiweek.com](http://www.gayskiweek.com)). Adding a few competitive events to the festivity could happen, but Ski Week focuses more on fun and fundraising.

Snowboarder Ryan Miller sees his fledgling sport possibly moving toward more organized winter GLBT events. “I’ve been contacted by various groups to get a Winter Games going,” Miller said, “including private organizations. The mayor of Salt Lake City even expressed his enthusiasm.” But the move toward organization fell away as few others offered to help.



Extra-bordin'-ary: Ryan Miller, out on the slopes.

A former member of the U.S. pro snowboarding team, Miller has competed all over North and South America. He trains with Colorado's Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Group, a professional 10-member team. “We train and travel together,” he said. “But as soon as competition comes up, it's every man or woman for himself.”

His coming out in the pro ranks resulted in difficulty with some fellow team members on the now-defunct pro team. This led to his goals to promote GLBT-inclusive snowboarding. In competition, he said, “I do get some comments from outsiders, but on the team, it's fine.” As “the token out gay guy in the sport,” he seeks gay-friendly sponsors who can assist what can be an expensive sport.

Miller is also part of Outboard, a 3,000-member-strong association of lesbian and gay snowboarders ([www.outboard.org](http://www.outboard.org)). He is enthusiastic, but practical, about a Winter Games. Despite the appeal of “pink dollars,” getting sponsors for gay events can be limited.

“We have to have the right people behind it, with a team that has the skills and forethought to get it together, or someone whose skills are connected to a large promotional company, like the X Games,” he said. “[These events] don't happen by themselves.”

Figure skating has been one of the most popular Gay Games events since 1994, and indoor skating could be a festive addition to a winter event.

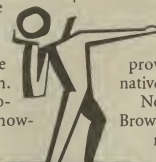
The International Gay Figure Skating Union ([www.igfsu.org](http://www.igfsu.org)), whose founders include Gay Games medal winners, has steadily gained members and participants, mostly due to its strength in developing a community of individual athletes.

San Diego skater Lisa Hall has competed in regional tournaments, as well as Gay Games VI and San Francisco gay-inclusive events. “Most of the figure skaters would be excited to have an event like [a Winter Games],” she said. “It would probably be small at first. But even standard ice skating

competitions are, in the beginning.”

She added, “It would also be nice for organizers to talk with a skating club that has an annual competition to get tips on getting started. I would love to skate in more gay events, especially more than once every four years!”

Alpine skiing might daunt most recreational skiers, but cross-country skiing could provide a horizontal alternative for novices.



Sports Complex

Nordic skier Nathaniel Brown was a medal-winning member of the U.S. Olympic Biathlon and Cross-Country Ski Teams (1979-93). He later prepared skis at three Olympics and several World Championships. Still an avid skier, he runs a ski shop in Edmonds, Washington ([www.ultratune.net](http://www.ultratune.net)).

Where Winter Games are concerned, “Good skiing and convenient housing are the only real issues,” he said. And “it's important for competition to be wide open so everyone can participate. In cross-country skiing, a reasonable course is definitely an issue. It's equally important to put the race on well, observing all the rules. I think doing it in conjunction with a larger event might be very enjoyable.”

Brown added that a party atmosphere might not mix with Nordic skiers, whom he described as “a bit hermetic, at least before the race. I have a nervousness about large numbers of ‘scene’ gay people.”

He remains hopeful, but realistic, about the prospect of GLBT Winter Games. “These things are always hard to organize, and a gay cross-country ski event is never going to happen if we wait for something ‘big and perfect.’ The key might be just to do it, and commit to it a few times. That way, word would spread, and it would grow slowly, which might also mean it would grow without some of the problems inherent in big events.”

Locally, members of SAGA North Ski and Snowboard Club have already been trekking to the slopes in bus trips to various resorts.

Beginners are encouraged to try out skiing or boarding in the economical one-day bus trips, which include breakfast, lift tickets, snacks with a movie on the way back, and transportation, all for under \$100. Depending on the resort, first time lessons and equipment are offered for free or for a small additional fee.

There are also several weekend trips to Lake Tahoe that include lodging, dinner, and lift tickets. SAGA North has many members of each ability level from beginner to expert, both skiing and boarding, so each member can ski or board with companions.

SAGA North also offers a wide range of outdoors activities

throughout the year, including parties, picnics, camping trips, hiking, water skiing, white water rafting and kayaking events.

Creig Smith, SAGA's vice president, said that there are a few spots open for upcoming trips, which include Sugarbowl Weekend, January 23-25; Heavenly Valley Bus Trip, February 7; Granlibakken (North Lake Tahoe) Weekend, February 20-22; Bear Valley Weekend, February 27-29; and other trips through March to Heavenly Valley, Banff, Lake Louise, and Mammoth Mountain.

“We encourage people to sign up early for trips, but we still have a few spots open,” Smith said.

As to a Winter Games, Smith said members of SAGA North haven't discussed it too much, “but people as individuals might be interested. It would be a lot of work,” but not really an appropriate goal for their club, he added, which focuses on recreational winter sports.

“There's already an awful lot going on at those events,” he added. “You don't usually see a lot of people really serious about competition.”

So, for now, playing and traveling, with a few breaks by the lodge fireplace, keep these hardy snow bunnies busy.

## Number crunching

Chicago Games is seeking technical and fundraising proposals for its bid and proposed organization of 2006 Gay Games, should they win the bid to host it.

The nonprofit organization preparing Chicago's bid is seeking qualified contractors to submit proposals for services in technology, database, registrations, online ordering, e-mail and web support, and for corporate sponsorship and fundraising.

Details regarding the request for proposals are available online [www.ChicagoGamesInc.org](http://www.ChicagoGamesInc.org). Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21.

## Strength in numbers

LGBT Pride is months away, but Team San Francisco's co-chair Ross Hayduk already has some fresh wheels rolling to bring Bay Area sports groups together. With one connected group of promotional and beverage booths, GLBT athletes can strengthen the outreach to the community, and make for a more cost-efficient form of fundraising and publicity, he noted.

“We can have multiple groups rent a few booths, and share the expense,” said Hayduk. “You end up paying less, sharing the space, but still having the impact of a large sports presence. Everyone hangs their own banners and signage, and can set out items for sale.”

Several groups that regularly rent booths, like the San Francisco Tsunami Swim Club, Golden Gate Wrestling, the San Francisco Spikes (who are hosting this summer's Gay soccer World Cup here in San Francisco this August) are considering signing up.

Soccer and Speedos and singlets, oh my! Sounds like a surefire plan to create the most popular, and jock-ular, area in Civic Center for Pride.

If your sports group is interested, contact Hayduk at: (415) 425-1485, or e-mail: [rosssfca@hotmail.com](mailto:rosssfca@hotmail.com).

Read previous articles at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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## CLASSIFIEDS

# 'Polar bears' gather at Russian River this weekend

by Cynthia Laird

**M**ovies, football, and fun await members of the bear community as "Polar Bear Weekend" kicks into high gear this holiday weekend (January 16-19) in Guerneville.

Held about a month before the International Bear Rendezvous in San Francisco, the weekend festivities hope to attract bears from the greater Bay Area for a weekend of fun in the Russian River area.

Several area resorts, including FIFE's, are offering special room rates (\$199 for two that includes a variety of extras), while the Triple

R will host the ice cold "polar bear plunge" in its pool Sunday night. Rainbow Cattle Company's new owners will celebrate their first bear event, and not to be outdone, the newly reopened RR Eagle bar will be serving up drinks, with the Guerneville Sisters promising a unique fundraising "technique," involving a baby pool and warm water.

Last year's Polar Bear weekend raised money for Face to Face and Food for Thought in Sonoma County.

For more information on where to stay, call the Russian River Concierge at 1-800-767-1759. ▼

## Gay marriage

◀ page 12

gay marriage. Those couples inevitably will press their states to recognize their unions, and the legal disputes are bound to land in court.

Conservatives are already using the courts to try to block California's AB205 from taking effect. Although an effort to place a referendum appealing the law on the ballot failed, a judge ruled that a lawsuit claiming the bill violates Proposition 22 could move forward. If Leno's bill should become law, conservatives would undoubtedly sue, claiming it is another violation of Proposition 22.

"We will definitely find ourselves in court sooner or later," predicted Leno. "It will be decided by the courts. It is that contentious

of an issue."

Equality California, the statewide LGBT civil rights advocacy organization, will be a main sponsor of Leno's bill. EQCA is a member of the California Freedom to Marry Coalition, an alliance of organizations committed to winning the right to marry for all California citizens.

"The denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples is nothing less than state-sanctioned discrimination," stated Geoffrey Kors, EQCA executive director. "This legislation will ensure that we actually treat LGBT couples and their children the same as other families under the law." ▼

**Next week, the Bay Area Reporter will look at the political impact a gay marriage bill could have on this year's presidential and state races.**

## Queer Careers

◀ page 16

me, I know what it looks like on both sides of the gender divide. I also know what it looks like going in between. I suppose this is valuable in marketing, for example. But more broadly, it's valuable as a perspective on communication between men and women at work.

What are the challenges for transfolk in the work world?

One is whether or not you're out: What happens when your new employer calls your reference where you worked as Charlene, and your résumé says Charles, or vice versa. This is different from being gay or lesbian — because with sexual orientation, you have the same gender identity — you're still Charles or Charlene.

Insurance is another big issue: Will it provide you with the best care, or is it going to be an HMO that is completely against helping transgender people, which is the case most of the time.

Once you get in the door, you confront the interpersonal issues with co-workers. And this depends on where you're at in the transition process. If you present as female but want to be addressed with male pronouns, you'll likely experience "conflict" with what people see and think. This manifests as the "bathroom issue": you end up having to do your work, and educating the entire office about which bathroom you're going to use and why.

Do transfolk tend to end up in certain occupations?

Well, there are a lot of transgenders working as trainers for public and private organizations to help them deal with transgender issues. This is very important and it's opening doors for us across the employment spectrum.

In general, however, employment level depends more on other variables — race, education, language, immigration status, etc. There are three typical work routes for the transgender women we work with, who tend to be poor with language barriers: 1) sex work, 2) beauty care: nails, hair, makeup, etc., and 3) nonprofit work, especially HIV prevention.

More educated and/or culturally mainstream transgender people work as school or nonprofit administrators, city and county government employees, registered nurses, or pharmaceutical company employees. As a transgender man, I am very proud to be the director of an organization that is not exclusively transgender. I thank my board for their support.

Thanks Prado, keep on making San Francisco a better place for all of us. ▼

**Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.**

# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL SERVICES

### CITYWIDE FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City & County of SF Controller's Office has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for citywide financial auditing services and welcomes qualified firms as potential contractors or subcontractors. RFP will include annual financial audit services for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the City's Single Audit, and 8-10 enterprise departments. See <http://www.sfgov.org/controller> under iContract Opportunities first for more information. Bidders must be fully compliant with the City's requirements at the time of bid. If you would like to be receive the RFP, contact Esther.Reyes@sfgov.org. Indicate if interested in bidding as prime or as sub. Pre-proposal conference 3pm, 1/21/04, 101 Grove St., 3rd Flr. Proposals due 12pm, 2/9/04.

### VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated.

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

### TREASURY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Treasury Oversight Committee consists of a total of five members, all of whom are nominated by the Treasurer and confirmed by and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. Membership is drawn from the following: the county Treasurer; the county Controller, a representative appointed by the Board of Supervisors; the county Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee; the Chancellor of the Community College District or his/her designee; members of the public. A majority of the members shall have expertise in, or an academic background in, public finance; the combination of who shall be economically diverse and bipartisan in political registration. Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of four years.

A Committee member MAY NOT be employed by an entity that had contributed to a reelection campaign of the Treasurer or a member of the Board of Supervisors in the previous three years and MAY NOT directly or indirectly raise money for the Treasurer or a member of the Board of Supervisors while a member of the Committee, and MAY NOT secure employment with bond underwriters, bond counsel, security brokerages or dealers, or with financial services firms for three years after leaving the committee.

The Committee's purpose is to involve depositors of funds into the City and County Treasury in reviewing the policies for investment of surplus funds that guide the management of their funds and to enhance the security and investment return on those funds by providing a more stable and predictable balance for investment by establishing criteria for the withdrawal of funds.

Vacant seat 3, must represent the Superintendent of Schools; be nominated by the San Francisco Treasurer and be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors for the unexpired portion of a four year term ending June 5, 2005.

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541112

In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for Change of Name. The application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Kathryn Wells has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kathryn Wells. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: D-Rock Productions, 1261 Broderick Street #101, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daron Ker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03. **JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272349-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nails by Wendy, 5933 Mission San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tam M. Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03. **JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004**

### STATEMENT FILE 0271802-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Debra Damo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tsegai Berhe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/02/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03. **DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004**

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE 243248

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Debra Damo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business was conducted by an individual, signed Tsegai Berhe. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03. **DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541009

In the Matter of the Application of David Allan Wentworth for Change of Name. The application of David Allan Wentworth for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that David Allan Wentworth has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Wentworth Schu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540939

In the Matter of the Application of Xavier Lartigue for Change of Name. The application of Xavier Lartigue for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his/her name be changed to Latif Kam Ra Eze. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541068

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick William Hook for Change of Name. The application of Frederick William Hook for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick William Hook has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Andrea Ashley Chenie. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540960

In the Matter of the Application of Sonya Sherrard for Change of Name. The application of Sonya Sherrard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sonya Sherrard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ducha Malika Jali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272369-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shear Bliss 422 Spruce Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Andrew Lucido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/30/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/30/03. **JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004**

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is Low Jennings Liole. The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 517 Clement Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Type of License applied for: **48-ON-SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES JAN. 15, 2004**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272200-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: All Fours 303 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lloyd Campbell Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/31/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/19/2003. **DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 1, 8, 15, 2004**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272181-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: EX/AY, 460 Natoma #20 Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey P. Mainville. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/18/2003. **DEC. 25, 2003, JAN. 1, 8, 15, 2004**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541110

In the Matter of the Application of Daniel Anthony Deleo for Change of Name. The application of Daniel Anthony Deleo for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Daniel Anthony Deleo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Danielle Annemarie Deleo. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JAN. 01, 08, 15, 22, 2004**



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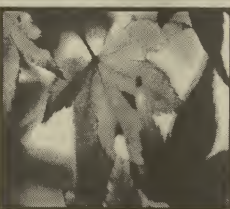
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## LEGAL SERVICES

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272651-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: f. Stop Four Productions 1760 O'Far-  
rell Street #17 San Francisco, Ca.  
94115. This business is conducted by an in-  
dividual, signed Timothy Plummer. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-  
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-  
ness name or names on 01/01/04. The state-  
ment was filed with the City and County of  
San Francisco, Ca. on 01/09/04  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272433-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Upper Third Street Boutique and Mar-  
ket 6275 Third Street San Francisco, Ca.  
94124. This business is conducted by an in-  
dividual, signed Evelyn Powers. The regis-  
trant(s) commenced to transact business  
under the above listed fictitious business  
name or names on NA. The statement was  
filed with the City and County of San  
Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/04  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272449-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: 1. Everything Baking, 2. Everythingbak-  
ing.com 4135 17th Street #202 San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94114. This business is con-  
ducted by a limited liability company, signed  
Malcom Haar. The registrant(s) com-  
menced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on  
01/02/04. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
01/02/04  
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### STATEMENT FILE A-0271935-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Saxophone Refurbishers Unlimited,  
1529 Union Street Suite 119 San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94123. This business is con-  
ducted by an individual signed Raja Deva  
Meadows. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on NA. The  
statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
12/08/2003.  
JAN 01, 8, 15, 22, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272247-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: 1. Northpoint Gallery, 2. North Point  
Gallery, 2215 Powell Street San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94133. This business is con-  
ducted by an individual signed Lori Dodge.  
The registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-  
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-  
ness name or names on 12/22/2003. The  
statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
12/22/2003.  
JAN 01, 8, 15, 22, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272246-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Lugh Arts 581 Dubois Ave. San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94117. This business is con-  
ducted by an individual, signed Donald F.  
Folkers. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on NA. The  
statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
12/22/2003.  
JAN 01, 8, 15, 22, 2004

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN- CISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541127

In the Matter of the Application of William  
James Ammons III for Change of Name. The  
application of William James Ammons III  
for change of name, having been filed in  
Court, and it appearing from said applica-  
tion that William James Ammons III has  
filed an application proposing that his/her  
name be changed to Bly Tau-Min. Now  
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,  
that all persons interested in said matter  
do appear before this Court in Department  
218 on the 02 day of March at 9:00am of  
said day to show cause why the application  
for change of name should not be granted.  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF AL- COHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the  
Applicant(s) is Sweeties, LLC. The Appli-  
cants listed above are applying to the De-  
partment of Alcoholic Beverage Control at  
185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic bever-  
ages at 475 Francisco Street, San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94133. Type of License applied for:  
47-0N- SALE GENERAL EATING  
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### STATEMENT FILE A-0272666-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: BC Design Partners 168 Caselli Ave.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is  
conducted by a general partnership, signed  
James Ellis Brown. The registrant(s) com-  
menced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on  
01/01/04. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
01/09/04  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN- CISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541043

In the Matter of the Application of Zhi Xi  
Liang for Change of Name. The application  
of Zhi Xi Liang for change of name, having  
been filed in Court, and it appearing from  
said application that Zhi Xi Liang has  
filed an application proposing that his/her  
name be changed to Vincent Leung. Now  
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,  
that all persons interested in said matter  
do appear before this Court in Department  
218 on the 24th day of February at  
9:00am of said day to show cause why the  
application for change of name should not  
be granted.  
JAN. 01, 08, 15, 22, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272755-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Sparky's Bookkeeping 339 Bartlett St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed Malia  
Spanyol. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on  
01/19/04. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
01/13/04  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272701-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Geary Street Bella Pizzeria 4124 Geary  
Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This busi-  
ness is conducted by a husband and wife,  
signed John Lee Tang. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on 01/04/04. The statement was filed  
with the City and County of San Francisco,  
Ca. on 01/12/04  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272651-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: f. Stop Four Productions 1760 O'Far-  
rell Street #17 San Francisco, Ca.  
94115. This business is conducted by an in-  
dividual, signed Timothy Plummer. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-  
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-  
ness name or names on 01/01/04. The state-  
ment was filed with the City and County of  
San Francisco, Ca. on 01/09/04  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004



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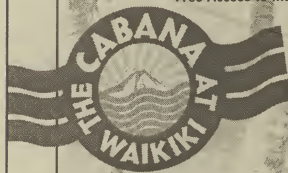


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## SERVICES

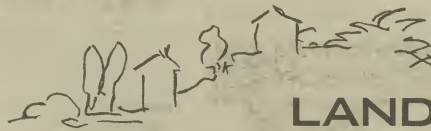
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## LEGAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272620-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Spy Cafe 555 Beach Street San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jason Woodside. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/04 JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272115-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as A.G. Quality Plumbing, 1019 South Van Ness Ave San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Agustin Garcia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/16/04 JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541129**  
In the Matter of the Application of Jessica Lyn Johnson for Change of Name. The application of Jessica Lyn Johnson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jessica Lyn Johnson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jess Johnson  
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02 day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004



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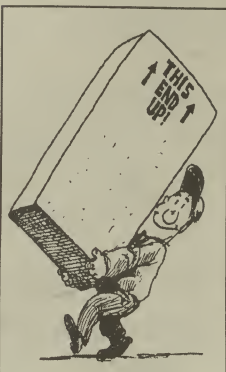


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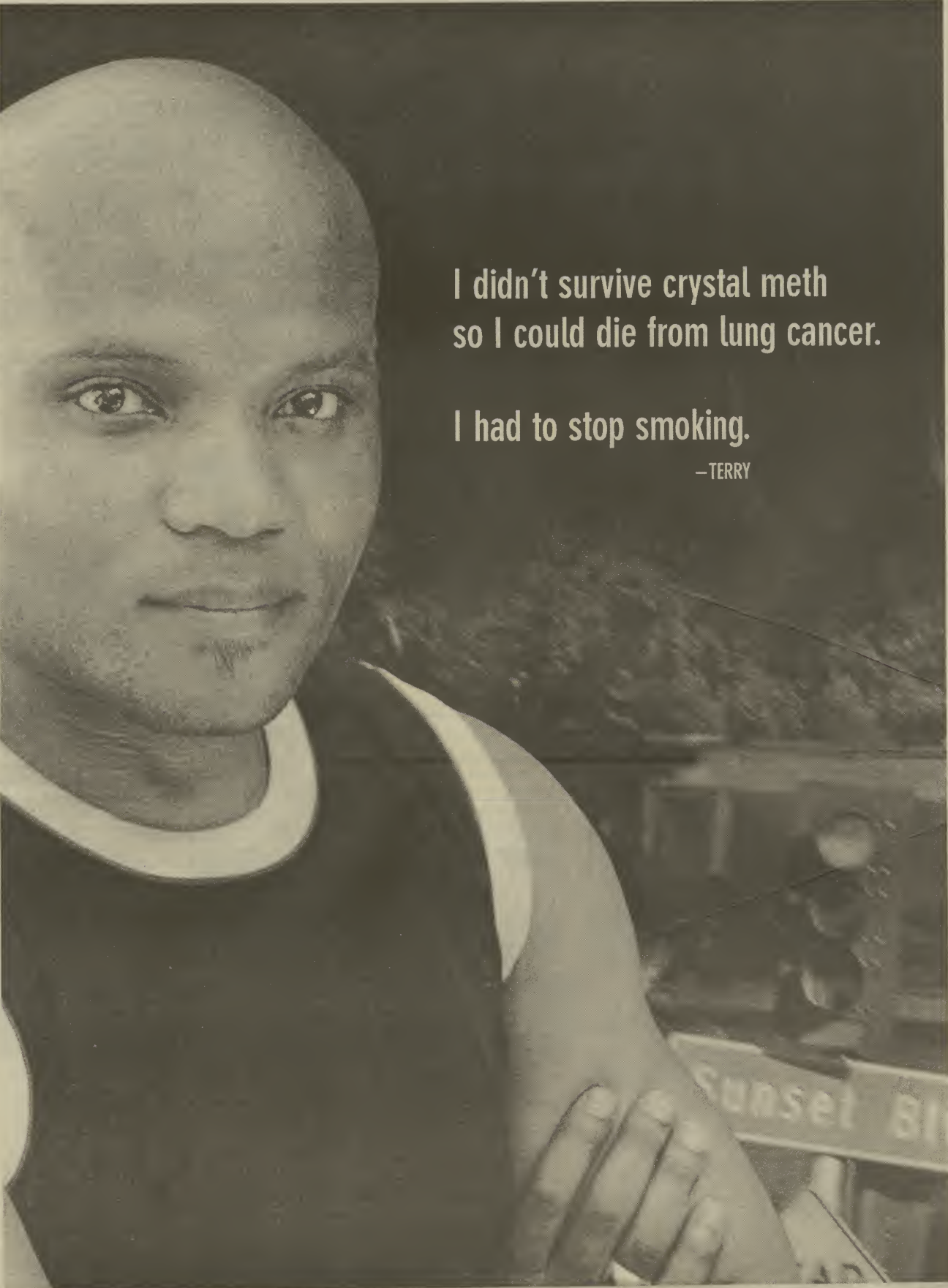
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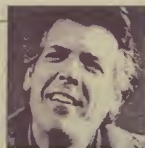
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**'And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going'**  
*Frenchie Davis delivers 'Dreamgirls' fab, defiant anthem in a winning production.*  
**page 27**

**'Barber' gets better**  
*San Francisco Opera's recast 'Barber of Seville.'*  
**page 31**



**Darkness descends**  
*Two-week Film Noir fest plays the Castro Theatre.*  
**page 28**



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 3 • 15 January 2004

## LOL with 'The L Word'



Leisha Hailey (Alice) and Erin Daniels (Dana) in *The L Word*

### 'GO FISH' GOES HOLLYWOOD ON SHOWTIME

by Erin Blackwell

**T**he titular *L Word* of the new Sapphic series from Showtime (debuting Sunday, January 18) is love, not *labia*. Even though dyke drama under the LA sun is the *raison d'être* of this mantra spoken — lest *The L Word* be reviled as cunt-centric.

Alice, a writer for *LA Magazine*, is seen pitching her skeptical editor in the episode "Let's Do It," January 25. Alice wants to write a story about a six-de-

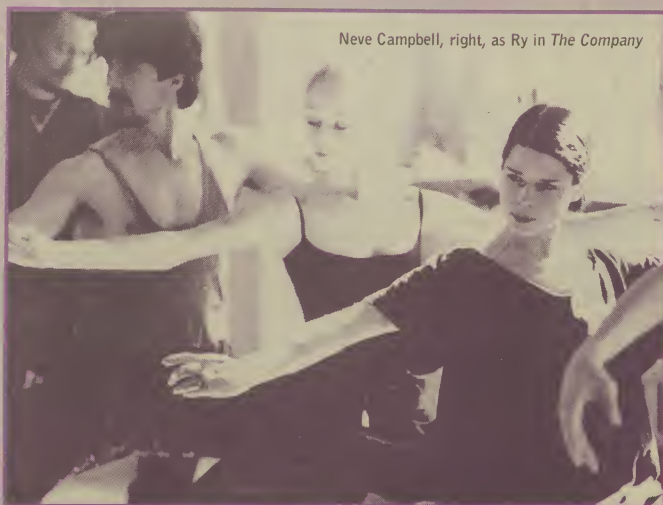
grees-of-separation map she's created of tribal trysts. She even offers to include him. "We're all connected," emotes actress Leisha Hailey, her shoestring-potato hairdo offsetting any pretensions to cosmic consciousness.

"Through love," continues Alice, the desperate bisexual. "Through loneliness. Through one tiny, lamentable lapse in judgment." Hailey's precise whine has the comic hopelessness of one who's had her best ideas rejected. "All of us, in our isolation, reach out

from the alienation of modern life."

The editor passes on lesbian connection, but green-lights Alice's story idea #2: vaginal rejuvenation. After cutting away to establishing vignettes of the monogamists (Jennifer Beals and Laurel Holloman), the closet case (Erin Daniels), the Don Juana (Katherine Moennig) and the straight girl (Mia Kirshner), we see Alice at the intercom of an iron gate. She's buzzed in only after saying loud and proud, "I need my vagi-

**page 35 ►**



Neve Campbell, right, as Ry in *The Company*

## Dancers from the dance

### SCORING ROBERT ALTMAN'S FICTIONAL BALLET 'COMPANY'

by Stephanie von Buchau

**T**he best sequence in Robert Altman's new film, *The Company*, is the main title, in which sleek, unitard-wearing dancers perform an intricate ensemble, creating a stagewide cat's cradle out of colored ribbons. It's an exciting piece, and, if you know your modern dance, it's obviously by Alwin Nikolais.

Yet a nagging sensation tells me it is not a work in the rep of the Joffrey Ballet (at least I've never seen it, if it is), and since Chicago's Joffrey is listed as a starring character in this quasi-fiction about the inner workings of an American ballet company, right away one feels manipulated and uneasy.

The uneasiness grows as Malcolm McDowell is introduced as Alberto Antonelli, the fictional head of the Joffrey, a character supposedly based on Gerald Arpino,

**page 32 ►**



# Meet the metrosexual press

## Macking Munchkins, metrosexuals and Marc Jacobs

by Roberto Friedman

The memorial service for BAR publisher/co-founder **Bob Ross** at the Herbst last Sunday was full of moving, heartfelt tributes from a diverse and pretty nifty group of speakers that included the newly minted **Mayor** (who spoke first and stayed 'til the end: classy) and down-home truths from Absolute Empress **XXV Marlena**. The BAR was ably represented on the podium by our one and only **Mr. Marcus Hernandez**.

Musical performances came from **Michael McGraw** at piano; dancers from San Francisco Ballet School **Nina Salas**, **Suzu Spaulding** and **Christopher Ouellette**, in a spirited *pas de trois*; and, in a rousing finale, **Sharon McNight**. At the after-party at Marlena's, groovy music from the jazz combo **Dave Miller Trio** spilled out into the street, as did we, drinks in hand, having dispensation from SFPD to drink street-side. It's not every day you see your newly minted **DA** stop by for a snort at your local drag bar, but this was not your usual occasion. Bob was there, too, in an urn over the bar. The right way to ring off a truly legendary man.

### Getting the munchies

A tip o' the wizard's hat to the man behind the curtain (and under the table), **Castrossario**



SF Ballet students Nina Salas, Christopher Ouellette, and Suzu Spaulding dance on the Herbst Theatre stage.

**Marc Huestis**, for showing that good things do indeed come in small packages. Huestis will be jetting in one of the very few living **Munchkins**, 83-year-old **Margaret Pellegrini**, for the gala Castro Theatre premiere of the *Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz* on March 12.

In the classic film, Pellegrini,

great-grandmother of four, memorably played a **Munchkin Maiden** and one of the **Sleepy Heads**. La Pellegrini's unique flowerpot hat makes her instantly recognizable, and she'll be wearing a replica of her costume for the fiesta. Margaret will re-Gale (get it,

**Dorothy Gale**) the assembled throngs with tall tales of the making of *Oz*, as she's interviewed by non-Munchkin **Jan Wahl**. Say, doesn't Jan herself sometimes wear a flowerpot hat? **Garland nonpareil Connie Champagne** hosts.

Speaking of champagne, *Out There* is dying to know whether the little people were all drunk on the set, or is that just Tinseltown myth? *Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz* runs at the 'stro March 12-25, so dust off your ruby slippers. Personally, we're waiting to sign up for the *Sing-A-Long Silence of the Lambs*. Info at 863-0611.

### Garment district

When *The Cockettes* co-creator **David Weissman** chatted recently by phone with designer



Fashion designer Marc Jacobs

**Marc Jacobs**, at first the fashion maven was scared Weissman was "going to yell at him." Seems said *Cockettes* (the group and the film) were a major source of inspiration for his Spring '04 collection. Apparently, bands Jacobs has referenced in the past have freaked on him. But all the young Paris fashion trendies are reportedly quite enamored with *Le Cockette chic*. Look for Cockette fashion in coming months in *Mixte* (Paris), *Elle* (UK), and *Japan Vogue*.

Meanwhile, the man who coined the term "metrosexuality," British wit **Mark Simpson**, put a patch on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* last week in *Salon*. "The basic premise is, it has to be said, a lie. I know this will come as a shock to millions, but gays are not necessarily more stylish than straight men. Exhibit A: the gay fashion 'expert' on *Queer Eye*, **Carson Kressley**, who dispenses sartorial advice while dressed like the **Children Snatcher** in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*."

Who, according to Simpson who should know, best personifies the metrosexual? "[Tiny screen actor] **Tom Cruise**. He's in his 40s now, but he uses all the technology of beauty and fashion to remain a desirable, smooth-skinned, buffed boy with a tarty grin. He's still **Maverick** from the definitive '80s movie *Top Gun*. Actually, he's still the adolescent with no pants

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## DREAMWORKS PICTURES BAY AREA REPORTER

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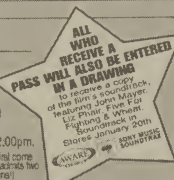
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## THEATRE

# Crossover dreams

'Dreamgirls' rule in San Jose

by Richard Dodds

In terms of raw emotional power, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" may be the most thrilling theater song ever written. Jennifer Holliday's no-stops delivery in the original *Dreamgirls* cast set the bar incredibly high for future performers, but if Frenchie Davis doesn't surpass Holliday, she comes damn close.

Davis is starring in *Dreamgirls* in a major revival of the 1981 musical that will continue on to Sacramento and Seattle after its run in San Jose. The production itself, co-produced by the American Musical Theatre of San Jose, is a powerful rendering of the musical that takes audiences on a dizzying tour of a pivotal time in recent musical history.

The musical tells its story through a group not unlike the Supremes, from humble beginnings as a black act to huge crossover success thanks to savvy if unsavory management. An innovative melding of dialogue, lyrics, music, and movement, *Dreamgirls* remains a remarkable piece of theatercraft 23 years later.

Of course, the words and music are the only tangible elements that can be passed down, but director Mark S. Hoebee and choreographer Brenda Braxton have captured the essences of Michael Bennett's original staging. And with only minor exceptions, the cast is fully up to the demands of the challenging material written by librettist-lyricist Tom Eyr and composer Henry Krieger.

While it spins a web of subplots, the rise of the Dreams is the



Frenchie Davis, center, is perfectly cast as Effie White in *Dreamgirls*.

story's centerpiece. Part of that rise comes at the expense of the talented, overweight, and difficult Effie White, who loses her spot as lead vocalist to the more marketable Deena Jones before being kicked out of the group by its manager and her opportunistic lover.

The imposing Frenchie Davis is perfectly cast as Effie, with the notoriety of her dismissal from *American Idol* for posing for a racy website adding to the prickly allure of her stage persona. At times Davis seems to be channeling Jennifer Holliday, but the performance never feels like a copy. And when she lays into "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," watch out.

Effie sings her defiant but futile anthem to Curtis, the Dreams' manager who switches romantic partners when it suits his business plans, and David Jennings pro-

vides a nuanced performance of a slick operator with a hint of a heart. There's strong work also from Harrison White as a James Brown-type singer, Regi Davis as his manager, and Andre Garnier as Effie's songwriter brother.

Angela Robinson plays Deena Jones (read Diana Ross) in an agreeable performance, but one that is lacking in the distinctive edge to justify her rise to superstardom over fellow Dreams played by Ramona Keller and Rosena M. Hill.

That's a small cavil amid the riches that *Dreamgirls* provides. This is a rare musical that has actually improved with age. ▼

*Dreamgirls* will run at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts through Jan. 25. Tickets are \$44.50-\$75.50. Call (888) 455-7469 or go to [amtsj.org](http://amtsj.org).

# In the Queen's Navy

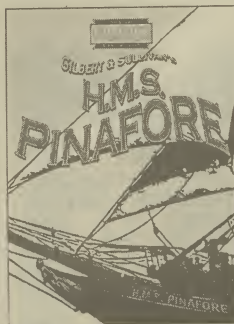
Lamplighters' 'H.M.S. Pinafore' at YBCA

by Richard Dodds

Lamplighters Musical Theatre is now in its 52nd year as the area's main purveyors of Gilbert and Sullivan, and while the troupe performs at major venues, its productions remain low on the radar of newspapers that regularly review theater. The *Chronicle* has reviewed one production in the past five years, and, truth be told, I have only just made my way to a Lamplighters production. The main holdup has been Lamplighters' continuing commitment to its community-theater status.

While members of the orchestra are paid, performers have only recently begun receiving a small stipend for their efforts. The policy keeps professionals away, but it draws a passionate group of G&S lovers who stay with the theater for years and even decades. In the case of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, the Lamplighters' current production, the commitment is most notable just where it should be: in the music and lyrics, guided by musical director Baker Peebles. Director Kit Wilder's staging is about unadorned efficiency, and succeeds in smoothly moving the large cast on and off the stage.

The production looks good in



Peter Crompton's handsome ship-board set and John Gilkerson's and Maggie Whitaker's elaborate period costumes. But whether or not the musical numbers are performed with old-school authenticity, they can lack the verve and build that more recent musical theater has adopted. Musical passages often end without notice, and even the G&S aficionados that made up the opening-night audience were confused about when or whether to applaud.

Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas have been called "precious nonsense," and the description fits the *Pinafore* plot of a ship's captain hoping to marry off his daughter to an admiral, only to find she is

in love with a lowly sailor. The rigidity and arbitrariness of the British social order are broadly mocked before a happy ending can be achieved.

As Josephine, the captain's daughter, Jennifer Ashworth displays a lovely voice, and it is well matched by Greg Tittle's inviting tenor as the callow sailor Ralph. (At some performances, Dave Mialovich plays Ralph, and the role of the captain is also double-cast with Will Connolly and Bill Neely). Lawrence Ewing can be amusing as the admiral, though he skirts the edges of artificial shtick. Charles Martin is consistently funny as the frightening Dick Deadeye, and Michele Krapp brings both fun and vocal finesse to Buttercup.

Lamplighters' production of *Pinafore* is a perfectly pleasant way to spend two hours. But is it sacrilegious in the archdiocese of Gilbert and Sullivan to ask for a little more oomph? ▼

*H.M.S. Pinafore* will run at Yerba Buena Center through Jan. 18 before moving to the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek on Jan. 22 for a five-performance run. Tickets are \$25-\$42. Call 978-2787 or go to [lamplighters.org](http://lamplighters.org).



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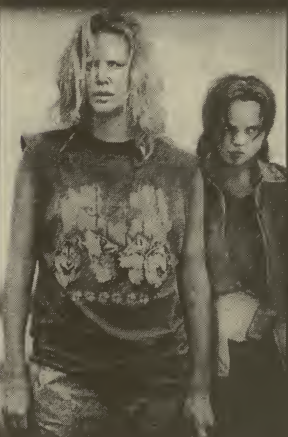
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# Return to the dark city

## Two-week Film Noir Fest at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

Femme fatales, treacherous men — these are the denizens of the shadowy world of author Eddie Muller (*Dark City Dames*), who presents the second annual Noir City Film Festival at the Castro Theatre, January 16-29. The celebration begins with the minor classic, *Detour* ('45), in which a foolish driver picks up Vera (Ann Savage), one of the screen's deadliest females. Miss Savage will be interviewed on-stage following the 8 p.m. showing on Friday, January 16.

Joan Crawford and Barbara Stanwyck, friends in real life, competed for the Queen of Noir title. They star in two movies based on James M. Cain novels. As Phyllis Dietrichson in Billy Wilder's *Double Indemnity* ('44), Stanwyck, in a blonde wig, is avarice incarnate, tempting then destroying Fred MacMurray, and nearly escaping Edward G. Robinson's insurance investigator. Nominated for an Oscar, she lost to Ingrid Bergman in *Gashlight*. The hitherto amiable MacMurray shows a greedy, cynical side seldom revealed in his long career. A classic of the genre and the inspiration for the Kathleen Turner-William Hurt *Body Heat* ('81), it's teamed with Crawford's Academy Award-winning performance as *Mildred Pierce* ('45), a striking combination of soap opera and murder mystery. Crawford cooks her way to success, but has man troubles and the most ungrateful daughter (Ann Blyth) in Hollywood history. Eve Arden wisely observes, "Alligators have the right idea. They eat their young." (1/17)

Whiskey-voiced Ida Lupino was beautiful, sexy, and slightly kinky. She's got problems aplenty



Crawford has man troubles.



Stanwyck plays a temptress.

seeking *The Man I Love* ('46), as a torch singer. In *Road House* ('48), her croaky crooning hits a sour note when she dumps bar-owner Richard Widmark for the buff Cornell Wilde.

Cain inspired MGM's venture into the noir world, with Lana Turner and John Garfield in *The Postman Always Rings Twice* ('46). She's married to doomed roadhouse-owner Cecil Kellaway, but has bigger aspirations, which Garfield fulfills. Platinum blonde Turner is clad in blazing white, to offset her black desires, although the film keeps trying (and failing) to make her sympathetic. B picture regular Ruth Roman was a compelling presence, and in *Tomorrow Is Another Day* ('51), she plays a dime-a-dance girl involved with ex-con Steve Cochran. Together, they flee from a murder. (1/19)

In *Flamingo Road* ('49), Crawford is an unlikely carnival dancer who rises to the top of society in a small town and deals with murder along the way. Sydney Greenstreet co-stars as the corrupt sheriff. *The*

*Strange Loves of Martha Ivers* ('46) are Stanwyck's. Kirk Douglas (movie debut), Heflin, Elizabeth Scott, and Judith Anderson are victims of her neurosis in this atmospheric cult classic. (1/20)

No actress during Hollywood's studio era matched Bette Davis' explosiveness and, in William Wyler's *The Letter* ('40), she's at her most gripping, giving perhaps her finest performance. Based on Somerset Maugham's story, it deals with murder, betrayal, and sexual hypocrisy in Malaysia, then a British colony. Herbert Marshall is the fool who loves her. Gale Sondergaard's campy interpretation of a native woman elicits giggles today, but was taken very seriously at the time. Sondergaard, the normally anodyne singing superstar Deanna Durbin, and Gene Kelly have a nightmarish *Christmas Holiday* ('44), about a young woman in a troubled marriage who tells all to a murderous mama's boy. (1/21)

Films running January 22-29 will be covered in next week's Bay Area Reporter. ▽

# Pioneering woman

## The film career of Ida Lupino

by Tavo Amador

In the early 40s, husky-voiced Ida Lupino (1918-95) looked like Bette Davis' successor at Warners. She was sexy and at times explosive, but when Davis' career slipped, Joan Crawford replaced her. Instead, Lupino became the only actress of her era to write and direct films, while continuing to perform before the cameras. Two of her better movies, *The Man I Love* ('46) and *Road House* ('48), are included in this year's Noir City Festival at the Castro Theatre.

Born in England to vaudevillians, she studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. As a teenager, she appeared in minor British films, attracting Paramount's attention. They tested her for *Alice in Wonderland*, which, fortunately, she didn't get. But they had her say, *Come On, Marines*, sent her to *Paris in the Spring*, made her a *Smart Girl*, and gave her to *Peter Ibbotson* ('35). She had a bit in *Anything Goes*, then *One Rainy Afternoon*, was *Yours for the Asking*, and was romanced by *The Gay Desperado* ('36). She faced *The Sea Devils*, decided to *Let's Get Married*, was



Husky-voiced Ida Lupino

among *Artists and Models*, and at RKO filmed *Fight for Your Lady* ('37). Two years elapsed until *The Lone Wolf Spy Hunt*, *The Lady and the Mob*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Light that Failed*, in which she scored as the tart.

Impressed, Warners signed her for another trampy part, a married woman hot for George Raft in *They Drive by Night* ('40). Her operatic courtroom breakdown grabbed audiences. She was billed over Humphrey Bogart's runaway

gangster in *High Sierra*. Her reviews were excellent and she did well in *The Sea Wolf*, *Out of the Fog*, and as the murderous housekeeper in *Ladies in Retirement* ('41). In *Moonlight* ('42), she was again a tart before playing Monty Woolley's nice daughter in *Life Begins at 8:30*, a dull drama about the theatre. She got raves — and a New York Film Critics Award — as the driven sister determined to make Joan Leslie a star in *The Hard Way* ('43).

*Forever and a Day* lasted almost that long, but she jitterbugged with Olivia de Havilland in *Thank Your Lucky Stars*, boosted servicemen's morale at the *Hollywood Canteen*, then did well in *This Our Time* ('44), as an Englishwoman in love with a Polish aristocrat fleeing Nazis. *Pillow to Post* was a poor comedy; and, in *Devotion*, ('45) she played Emily Bronte (de Havilland was Charlotte). Things improved again with *The Man I Love*, but she was an unlikely backwoods girl with a speech impediment in *Deep Valley*. *Escape Me Never* ('47) with Errol Flynn failed, and she left Warners. Her visit to the *Road House* was popular, but the Western *Lust for Gold* ('48) was unim-

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## FILM

# My baby's tolerant Daddy

## Eddie Griffin goes all lesbian

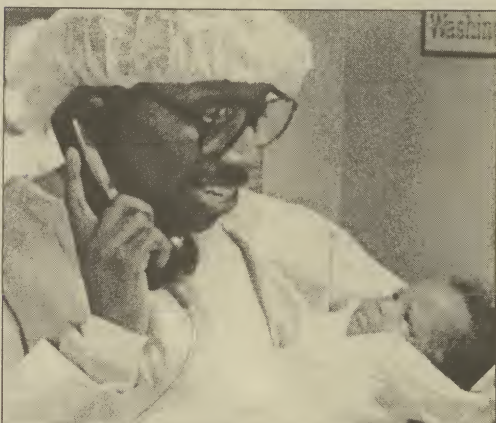
by Brandon Judell

Eddie Griffin can be very funny. Just catch him in *Undercover Brother*, *Scary Movie 3*, or *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*. The brassy comic can also be quite politically astute about being black in America. Just rent his concert film, *DysFunkTional Family*, to experience his essence. But by all means, turn it off after 50 minutes if you want to avoid the verbal queerbashing.

love and responsibility, but not until after Lonnie (Griffin) finds out he doesn't love his baby's mom; G (Anthony Anderson) is deserted by his Asian gal pal for robbing a store; and Dominic (Michael Imperioli) loses his love to a lesbian.

Surprises are that (1) the handling of the lesbian subplot is rather respectful and (2) there is a 5-second shot of two gay men in a child-rearing class, and they are not swishers.

Well, what's the story?



Griffin plays affable loser Lonnie in Cheryl Dunye's *My Baby's Daddy*.

How bad is it? First, Griffin notes how he doesn't like those sneaky fags, and begins pondering why black gays are so much more flamboyant than whites as he starts sashaying across the stage. Then he warns you have to be careful of gays because they're dangerous. Anyone who can take a "dick up his ass and is still smiling" is no one to fool with.

But the really dreadful material has just begun. Wait until Eddie avows that if he had a gay son, he'd "tie him to a bed and send in a whore every hour." How can any father be proud of a having a gay son? he inquires bewilderedly. Then, making believe he's a proud pop with a "fag" for a child, he does a long riff which includes: "That son of mine can sure suck dick!" and so forth.

Perturbed by this footage, when Griffin was on the *Howard Stern Show*, I phoned in and asked sweetly, "Eddie, why is your new film so homophobic?"

He replied, "Hey, man. It's a comedy! It's a comedy!"

Well, was I over-reacting? Not according to reviews of Griffin on the following websites: *Slant* ("a homophobe in the strictest sense"); *Planet Sick-Boy* ("Griffin's new film outs the star as a bigot and a homophobe"); and *The Village Voice* ("a racist, misogynistic provocateur").

But if this is all true, why is Cheryl Dunye, a prize-winning, radical, black lesbian who helmed *The Watermelon Woman*, directing *My Baby's Daddy*, a film which opened Friday that Griffin both stars in and co-wrote?

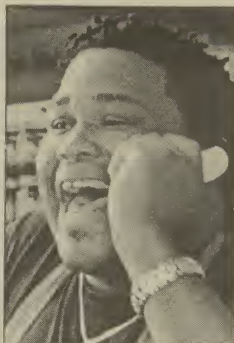
This slight, affable comedy tells of three losers who all get their girlfriends pregnant on the very same day. Nine months pass, and the boys, who are proud of their immaturity, suddenly discover

To find out, I got together last week with two of the stars, Griffin and Anderson. Entering a suite at the Essex Hotel in NYC, the angelic-looking Griffin, attired in a classy white sweatsuit with a matching backwards-worn baseball cap, responded gruffly when asked about the politics of his movies: "Pah-lie-tics? There's no such thing as politics. Break the word down. What's a tick? A blood-sucking organism. What's a lie if it ain't a lie? And who are they lying to? Poor people. So let's move on past that. [*My Baby's Daddy*] is not CNN. It's just a comedy. I'm not here to change the world. I'm here to change your mind."

But when asked about Dunye, his face lit up with a grin: "Cheryl Dunye. I hired the young lady. We went through a bunch of different choices of directors, and she walked in the room, and I had seen the piece that she did on Showtime, *Stranger Inside*. It was about women in the penitentiary which had a lot of heart to it. It wasn't just another penitentiary film. The way Cheryl articulated her view of the script, she was right on point. I said, 'We need a woman's sensibility in this, because two men wrote the story, and you gonna end up having too much testosterone in the situation.' So when Cheryl came, I said, 'Yeah, because she'll keep the checks and balances.' So she did quite a job. I'm proud of the sister."

"When you wrote the film," I asked, "did you imagine the two attractive women who got the lesbian parts, or did you see one lesbian as a 'bull-dyke'?" Did Cheryl have to counter you with, 'No, no, they can be pretty?'"

"No," Griffin insisted, "I never looked at lesbians as bull-dykes or



Anthony Anderson is robust.

as your big, old handsome women. I mean, that's like a cliché going back to the '60s. Most of the lesbians I know are quite the sexy motherfuckers. I'm just trying to cross them back over."

Turning back to *DysFunkTional Family*, I noted the line where Griffin says he'd tie his gay son to a bed and send a whore in every hour. Was his consciousness raised between that film and his new one?

"See, I'm glad you asked that question," Griffin purred. "Now you're going to learn the difference between comedy and movies. What you witnessed before about tying a son to the bed, what father's actually going to do that? So, of course, that is a joke."

"But, my gay brother, I'm going to help you out. Gay people are always saying we want to be treated like everyone else. If you watched the comedy concert film, I talked about everybody and their mommas. I talked about Asians. I talked about white folks. I talked about niggers. I didn't let nobody go. So if you want to be all inclusive, then laugh at the shit, motherfucker. Loosen your tight ass."

### Sweet thing

Then it was time to chat with the sweet Anthony Anderson, who stars in the successful TV show *All About the Andersons*, and who has appeared in *Barbershop*, *Kangaroo Jack*, and the upcoming *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London*. Immediately, the robust actor feigned surprise to hear that Cheryl Dunye was a groundbreaking lesbian filmmaker.

"Is she a lesbian?" he asked incredulously.

I nodded.

"To look at Cheryl, you would never have thought she was a lesbian," he noted.

"One would never think you were straight," I countered flirtatiously.

Anderson laughed.

I then asked, "If a man had directed *My Baby's Daddy*, don't you think the film would have gone over the top, possibly being misogynous or homophobic?"

"You know what, man?" Anderson smiled. "I like your questions. First of all, I don't think if a man had directed this, it would have been squeamish or anything, because men have sensibilities and can be sensible to things. As for Cheryl, I just thought she was a great person and director for the job. She being a woman and a lesbian, I don't know what that adds to a project. I don't think she was brought on to the project because of those things. She was brought on because of her directorial abilities."

"She had a vision, she had a plan, and she stuck to it as well as she could. I think she held her own. And I think we have a quality piece in *Daddy*. Talent, you know, always transcends what you are." Now playing. ▼

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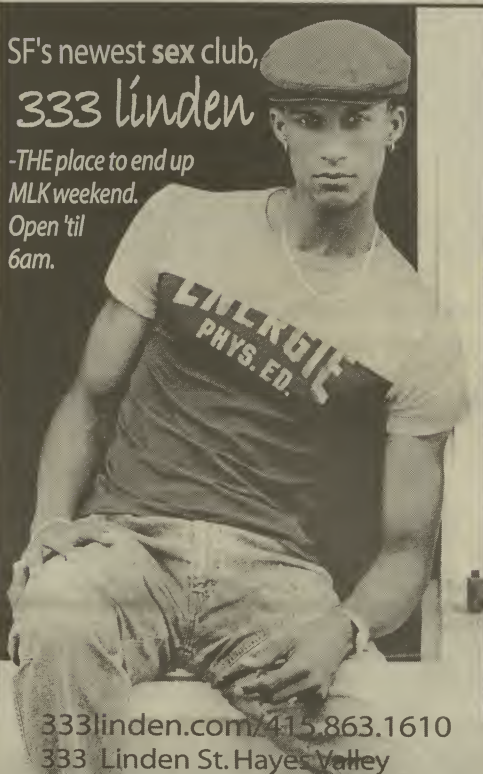
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# Tea leaves

The poems behind the stories

by Zak Szymanski

When people write those poems about this place/where I live, kicking needles down the street and/o the whores and o the cracked junkies with faces/like a busted couch and o the trash the filth the/swirl of spray paint on the wall, well/it always makes me wonder where they lived/before."

Take that, cleaner-than-thou suburb-dwellers and Castro A-gays. This is San Francisco queer history from the trenches up: gutterpunk culture before it got trendy, punctuation carefully strewn around life and its messy magnificence. This is Michelle Tea's *The Beautiful: Collected Poems 1993-97*, just released by Manic D Press, and it is not the Tea you're accustomed to having, unless you can remember the days before postgay political prose was taken seriously. More on this genre later.

Michelle Tea has been around, and not just literally, but literarily. Been to a queer open mic night lately? Chances are Tea is to thank for its organization or inspiration; it was she and Sini Anderson who in 1994 co-founded the now-famous Sister Spit spoken-word venues that sparked the dyke beatnik generation, launching the spotlight for regional well-knowns like Marci Blackman, Lynne Breedlove, Beth Lisick, Tara Jepsen, and Nomy Lamm, and attracting renowned writers like Eileen Myles.

Tea calls herself a Myles contemporary — both hail from the East, and both employ rebel verse to build plot throughout their novels. But while Myles' poetry defines her fiction, like the 2000 release *Cool for You*, Tea's poetic constructions get their muscle from the captured moments of

short-story narratives, as in her debut *The Passionate Mistakes and Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America*; her most recent release, *The Chelsea Whistle*; and the dyke-defining, city-enshrining, award-winning novel *Valencia*.

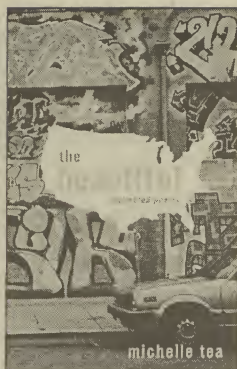
*The Beautiful* offers the same strengths, but with a framework that nurtures the power of first-thought-best-thought and allows each line to create a sense of both urgency and permanence.

The piece "Motorcycle Funeral Escort" begins, "he said, I'm sorry, and/I'm Not Gonna Interrupt You/as he crouched at our thighs/and interrupted." It pulls the reader into a dimly-lit bar scene while illustrating what every day is like for an attractive dyke whom straight men always want to "take to the next level." "it just breaks a man's heart, watching/a girl so involved with her life,/without him like that."

### Votive prayer

The reader gets a similar sociological lesson in "I Used to be Straight," which gives a nod to all the young women whose sole purpose is to cheerlead the male lovers in their lives. "I'm lighting votive candles/for the straight girls of America/lying on mattresses in their boyfriends'/loft apartments, posing naked for/their brilliant artist boyfriends, or otherwise/inspiring them to new levels of straight boy/genius, smoking cigarettes with each other/as they bitch about their sadly/tortured boyfriends, so proud/they've got a boy to bitch about."

Tea's assertions could be a lesbian manifesto, the way she simultaneously attracts and demotes all



the openly moronic men in power. But despite all the truth to the simplistic nature of cultural categories, Tea's work actually belongs in the yet-to-be-carved space known as queer literature, the not-gay-or-lesbian studies class whose syllabus is still being written.

If being gay or lesbian is defined by romantic preferences, modern-day heroes like Tea — and her male counterparts like author Kirk Read (*How I Learned to Snap*) — are defining queer as a not-straight existence that is gender-inclusive and inseparable from certain economic and political realities.

"Crabs are No Big Deal," we learn from the title of one her pieces, which goes on to describe the horror of not the creatures themselves but the sacrifices they represent. And what hustler can't find some solace in the allegations of the poem, "Johns Who Don't Pay are Rapists."

Like many young urban queer artists, Tea draws from a range of bodily discourse with a vocabulary and cynicism particular to sex work, gentrification, and the rejection of too-tidy anything, whether straight or gay. *The Beautiful* gathers all the sighs and scoffs of that existence by the fistful. ▼

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# Triumphing over stage business

SF Opera's 'Barber' with a winning cast and conductor

by Stephanie von Buchau

I cannot begin to tell you the pleasure I had last Friday night when San Francisco Opera revived its manic *Barber of Seville* production, seen earlier in the 2003-04 season. It wasn't just the full house of laughing, cheering patrons, or the fact that my date (who usually disdains comic opera) said, referencing the last great production of the piece here in 1963 with Hermann Prey, Reri Grist and Cesare Valletti: "I haven't had that much fun at *Barbiere* in 40 years."

No, the real reason we enjoyed ourselves so much — and you will, too, at the two performances left (if you can get tickets) — was that the production, though still overwrought, overproduced and disrespectful of the singers and the music, finally did what many of Pamela Rosenberg's productions have not done. It gave us three spectacular international talents in the leading roles, and fired them up with an imaginative, brilliant young conductor.

Add director Johannes Schaaf's cornucopia of ideas, Hans Dieter Schaaf's Malibu Moderne revolving house and Yan Tax's witty costumes, and you have the kind of operatic triumph the new regime has been talking about but has seldom achieved. Schaaf still undercuts the opera's great arias with his busy stage business. Figaro (Thomas Hampson) still has to sing the "Largo al factotum" while shaving and giving a "client" a complete makeover.

Rosina (Joyce DiDonato) tries to keep our attention in "Una voce poco fa" while Figaro is selling cocaine upstairs to Berta (hilarious Catherine Cook). Bartolo (Kevin Glavin, as sweaty and vocally amateurish as he was in *Cenerentola* last summer) still tries to project his aria over audience hilarity caused by Ambrogio (the divine Ricardo Herrera) dusting the private parts of an anatomically-correct medical model. And the fabulous first act finale still has to contend with the local *polizei* dismantling Figaro's red scooter.

Okay, that Stuttgart Stuff is not going away, but casting it properly removes a lot of the sting. Last October, the weak first cast, rehearsed within an inch of its life, simply couldn't overcome the staging. They appeared to be cold, mechanical automatons, who sang unmemorably. So much for six weeks of stage rehearsals. I was told (not officially, of course) that Hampson had only a week of rehearsals, yet his Figaro had all the star power and glamour missing in Nathan Gunn. Gunn is a hunk, a sweetie and a lot younger than Hampson, but Hampson is a wily, stage-savvy vet. Singing over what sounded like a cold (no announcement was made), he more than compensated with charm, suavity and authority. Even under the weather, he's got more voice than Gunn.

## 'Roo raising

DiDonato, making her SFO debut, fulfilled the promise of her San Francisco Symphony debut a few years ago. Her gleaming mezzo soprano is as smooth as butter and boasts a brilliant technique (the singing lesson was one

next page ►



Thomas Hampson, as Figaro, brings star power and glamour to San Francisco Opera's *The Barber of Seville*.

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## The Company

◀ Arts cover

the company's real director and chief choreographer. If I were Arpino, I'd sue. It's not so much the flamboyant, egotistical character McDowell imagines; with virtually no help from screenwriter Barbara Turner or director Altman, he's way out there making a fool of himself on his own.

It's more that the hard-working Joffrey artistic administration (some of them fictional, many of them well-known, real-life, ex-Joffrey dancers now working as ballet masters: Mark Goldweber, Cameron Basden, Charthel Arthur) simply rolls its collective eyes at Antonelli's antics. The implication is that he can behave badly most of the time and be forgiven because he is a "genius." Maybe, but we shouldn't have to witness it. Besides, Arpino is not a genius, and I suspect he doesn't behave nearly that badly.

Arpino is also not so egotistical (or insane) that he allowed himself to be filmed making a ballet. We see snippets of Arpino's work: "Suite Saint-Saens," "Trinity" (which loses its hypnotic hippie heroism in this excerpt), and worst of all, that exercise in gynecological sleaze, "Light Rain." The choreographers we do see at work are Lar Lubovitch (responsible for SF Ballet's *Othello*) and the Cana-



Neve Campbell as Ry in Robert Altman's ballet film *The Company*.

dian Robert Desrosiers. Neither of them comes off looking very good.

### Campbell soup

Lubovitch sets "My Funny Valentine" (the film's increasingly tedious theme song) as a pas de deux for Ry, the up-and-coming ballerina played by Neve Campbell, the actress without whom *The Company* never would have been made. Campbell apparently was a dancer at one point, getting into acting after an injury. She's a rather ordinary-looking young woman, but she got herself back in dance shape for this film, in addition to acting as producer. She looks Joffrey-ish, if you understand that generally means a level below ballerinas from New York City or San Francisco Ballets.

The Lubovitch "Valentine," danced improbably in a rainstorm outdoors at Chicago's Grant Park, is a pleasant enough work, but Desrosiers' "The Blue Snake" is ludicrous. We see the flamboyant choreographer exhibiting the expensive designs for his fable — a kind of K-Mart *Lion King*. We watch him setting banal steps on the dancers. (I kept wondering what rude comments Mark Morris might utter.) Then we actually see the thing performed. I kept waiting for someone to stand up and announce that the emperor was naked. But no, even at the end, when a large upstage head is "eating" the dancers, a reprieve never comes. "Blue Snake" is performed to tumultuous applause,

after which everybody goes to the cast party. End of movie.

There are tiny epiphanies in this film, where Altman catches an aging ballerina fiercely defending her turf; a dancer snaps her Achilles tendon; or the young males chaff each other about sexual preference. Gayness in dance is addressed directly but without the usual cinematic hysteria. At one point McDowell simply names prominent Joffrey dancers who died of AIDS, including "Bob" (Joffrey, the company's founder). A hopeless young twinkie is pushed throughout the film by his older mentor. Nobody comes out or is tormented by his sexuality, possibly a first in ballet films. And there are fleeting sightings of enough half-nude, gorgeous bodies to keep you from falling asleep.

Yet essentially, in employing his quasi-documentary style without a firm storyline, Altman gives us only half a film. Ry's love affair with a sweet young chef (dishy James Franco) has no affect. They never quarrel or discuss anything; they just tumble like puppies. When he blithely crosses the stage during a curtain call (an absolute no-no), I kept wondering how he'd feel if she plopped on the counter while he was plating entrees. In other words, *The Company* is too shallow and superficial to be taken seriously. Yet, clearly, that is not what Altman intended. ▼

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## Barber of Seville

◀ previous page

long arch of expressive coloratura), and you can always hear her in the ensembles. Plus, she's a warm, plucky blond bombshell who entered into Schaa's more outrageous pratfalls with game physical grace, and she actually outpointed her predecessor in playing with the role's main prop, the adorable stuffed kangaroo that comforts Rosina in her loneliness.

As if Hampson and DiDonato weren't giving the production enough of the human glow it sorely needed, tenor Matthew Polenzani (Almaviva) provided the thrill of discovery. His CV reads like a textbook of lyric tenorism, but I'd never heard him or even heard of him. The first notes of "Ecco, ridente" gave no-

tice this is a major talent. The voice projects strongly, has a sexy core, stunning high notes and tender accents strung on endless breath. If you like 'em cuddly, he's a natural stage animal, who got cuter and more appealing as the evening went on.

Finally, there was conductor Francesco Corti, who must be asked back. He sounds like a guy with period-instrument experience, as the overture was lean, pungent and original. His accompaniments were always apposite, the tempos perfectly judged, the music flowing like... yes, champagne. Corti and his cast proved what the original *Barber* last fall couldn't: If you start with star singers and a commanding conductor, and then give them a bright production, the winner (besides the composer) is the audience. ▼



## FILM

Gin, Miyuki and Hana go on a mad search for an abandoned child's parents in animated film *Tokyo Godfathers*.

## Trouble child

'Tokyo Godfathers' find a discarded baby

by David Lamble

**W**e're homeless bums, not action-movie heroes."

When we first meet Gin, Hana and Miyuki in *Tokyo Godfathers*, they're neither bums nor heroes — they're cartoon characters who find a baby abandoned in a pile of trash in Tokyo's Shinjuku district. With only a business card and a couple of photos as clues, they go on a mad search for the child's parents. While younger viewers will be tempted to call the film an homage to *3 Men and a Cradle* (Leonard Nimoy's remake of the French hit *Three Men and a Cradle*), the idea for *Tokyo Godfathers* is almost as old as movies themselves. John Ford filmed *The Three Godfathers* twice — as a silent in 1919, and later, in 1949, with John Wayne. Three hardened gunfighters stumble upon a kid and are turned into the three wise men. You get a Bible story, a modern parable, and a sentimental swamp of an action picture.

Japanese animation director Satoshi Kon, acclaimed for *Millennium Actress*, drains the swamp. His homeless trio are today's outlaws, putting society's surplus goods to their own use as they move largely invisible through armies of real citizens. The *Godfathers* are a drunken ex-

bike racer and habitual liar, an aging drag queen with a mother complex, and a runaway teenage girl who has left home after stabbing her father. The trio finds the kid while dumpster-diving for their Christmas gifts. Hana worries about their mission. "Christmas should be the happiest day of the year. If we take her now, it'll be the worst day of her life."

This trio of bickering misfits embarks on a suicidal mission through every nook and cranny of modern Tokyo — the film's take on Japan's commuter-train culture alone is nicely ironic giving its denizens' addiction to adult comic books. The protagonists have as many lives as Wiley T. Coyote, and the film's vitality rests on outrageous coincidence and so many hyperkinetic, unlikely plot twists that *Deus ex machina* should be included in a subtitle. Whenever they write themselves into a hole, the creative team has an ambulance crash through a 7-11 store, a gangster assassinated, or a female baby-napper hijack a delivery truck. *Tokyo Godfathers* is a cacophony of storytelling, masquerading as a plot that pivots on a case of postpartum depression.

### Dynamic trio

As irascible and clueless as a homeless Homer Simpson, Gin (the voice of Toru Emori, adept at dissembling characters; his Iago in

*Othello* won a stage prize) spends much of the film running into trouble and away from a terrible secret. Hana (TV star Yoshiaki Umegaki) is a gap-toothed terrorist of a diva whose unlikely vocation as a crossdressing substitute mommy echoes his own bumpy childhood. Finally, Miyuki (child star Aya Okamoto) is a pint-sized spitfire whose passion to find who put the baby out with the trash fuels this funny/scary ride.

Satoshi Kon and his partners at Madhouse Studio have fixed what went awry with Ralph Bakshi's flawed attempts to filter America's culture wars through the wittily obscene vision of R. Crumb. The genderbending world of *Tokyo Godfathers* is hip but not gross, employing Japan's homogenous world view to capture an urban, adult audience while not excluding the kids. It's the same way samurai films are becoming Saturday-morning TV fare on niche channels like IFC.

As a kid, my first taste of big-screen animation was the view of a 40-foot-high Mad Hatter stuffing a humongous Dormouse into a teapot in the Disney version of *Alice in Wonderland*. *Tokyo Godfathers* likewise demands to be seen in all its larger-than-life fine detail on a big screen. ▼

Opens Friday.

## Ida Lupino

◀ page 28

pressive.

After divorcing actor Louis Hayward, she married producer Collier Young and began directing at RKO, starting with *Not Wanted* ('49), about an unplanned baby. She directed *Outrage* ('50) and *Hard Fast and Beautiful* ('51), before playing a blind woman menaced by Robert Ryan in Nicholas Ray's *On Dangerous Ground*. Ryan threatened her again in *Beware My Lovely*, and she directed *The Hitchhiker* ('52). She was Jennifer before helming and starring in *The Bigamist* ('53), with Joan Fontaine, now married to ex-husband Young. She and new spouse Howard Duff visited *Private Hell* ('54), which she wrote, then she was a sadistic boss in *Woman's Prison* and Jack Palance's sympa-

thetic wife in *The Big Knife* ('55). She excelled as a newspaper sob-sister awake *While the City Sleeps* then faced *The Intruder* ('56), before she and Duff starred in a television series, *Mr. Adams and Eve*, playing movie stars. She had, since 1949, acted in and directed many television programs. She returned to the big screen helming *The Trouble with Angels* ('66), a saccharine but successful comedy about nuns, starring Rosalind Russell. As Steve McQueen's mother in *Junior Bonner* ('72), she once again earned critical plaudits. The rest were minor: *Deadhead, The Devil's Rain* ('75), *The Food of the Gods* ('76), and *My Boys Are Good Boys* ('79).

As an actress, Lupino often played destructive women. As a director, however, she showed the harm men cause women. Her perspective was feminist, independent, and pioneering. ▼

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# 'Bottoms Up' in D.C.

## Mid-Atlantic Leather in the spotlight

by Mister Marcus

The first big leather weekend of the year is taking place in Washington, D.C., January 16-18, when the Centaur Motorcycle Club presents its famed "Leather Weekend," including the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather competition.

"Bottoms Up" is the theme for this year's production, with a meet and greet on Friday night, vendor booths and workshops on Saturday, the leather brunch on Sunday morning and the contest itself on Sunday Afternoon.

There is a change of venue this year. The contest will be held at Alma's Temple — only three blocks from the host hotel Washington Plaza.

Despite fiendishly low temperatures in the forecast for the Mid-Atlantic region, it is doubtful that attendance will be at all diminished. The Centaurs always do a magnificent job of organizing things, and from the looks of the line-up, there will be plenty of people, and plenty to do.

Scads of private and semi-private parties are on the schedule to coincide with the events. And immediately following the contest, a huge leather disco party ("Reaction") will take place at Nation's.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is making another outreach to the leather community at this event, with a reception on Saturday afternoon. And there will be plenty of action interspersed within all the "official" weekend events.

The host hotel is sold out, but other nearby hotels still have accommodations available. For more info, click on [www.leatherweekend.com](http://www.leatherweekend.com) or call (800) 494-8497. A huge contingent from the Left Coast will be there, as well as leather mavens many other areas of the U.S. and Canada.

Lots of Bay Area people will be heading to D.C. for this Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend, so expect to see familiar faces if you go. I'll be there to cover the event, so you'll be the first to know the results here next week with photos. Don't miss this one!

### Rob Wiseman wins Round 1 in LA

The past week was relatively quiet around the leather circuit except that on Saturday night, January 10, the first of nine con-



Alvin York, Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2003, steps aside from this title this coming weekend in Washington, D.C. as the popular "Leather Weekend" takes the spotlight in the leather nation, January 16-20.



Rob "Ox" Wiseman was chosen Mr. Gauntlet II Leather 2004 in a contest held at that world-famous bar last Saturday night, January 10. He advances to compete for the Mr. L.A. Leather 2004 title on Saturday, March 27.

tests leading up to Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 was held at the Gauntlet II in Los Angeles.

Five men stepped forward to compete before judges George Wong, Stephen Blackwell, Don Mentink, Dave Rhodes and Troy Anicete.

When the scoring was done, Rob Wine-man (also known as "Ox") was the winner and Rob Henning was the runner-up. Mr. Wineman advances to compete for the Mr. L.A. Leather 2004 title in late March.

### Grand farewell for an icon

Last Sunday, January 11, a huge crowd gathered at the Herbst Theater for a memorial service in honor of Bob Ross, the late publisher of the *Bay Area Reporter*. Iconic members of the leather, court, political and arts communities were on hand to

hear several remembrances of the great legacy Bob Ross left for the betterment of all factions of San Francisco. Da New Mayor (Gavin Newsom) headed the list of those who spoke, including Bob's eight-year-old nephew.

Of course humorous anecdotes were related, and Sharon McNight ended the service with a heart-rending number.

Afterward, the crowd reassembled at Marlena's bar, where the revelers spilled out on the street in front and a good time was had

by all. It was another one of those gatherings where people you don't see on a regular basis renewed old acquaintances and swapped stories about Bob. It was one of those grand nights that was another "only in San Francisco" happenings. It was a fitting closure for one of this community's most effective activists. ▼



**Leather**

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, January 15

Bare Chest Calendar for 2005 contests kick off tonight at the Powerhouse. If you've got it, flaunt it. Sign up by 9:30PM.

### Weekend, January 16-19

Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, D.C. by the Centaur Motorcycle Club; meet & greet on Friday, leather cocktails on Saturday; and Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest on Sunday. For information, click on [www.leatherweekend.com](http://www.leatherweekend.com).

### Friday, January 16

The 2nd of 9 contests leading up to Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 title is at Oil Can Harry's in Studio City tonight. The winner advances to compete for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 title in late March.

### Weekend, January 16-19

Polar Bear Weekend at the Russian River. Guerneville, the town that brings you the popular

Lazy Bear Weekend, is now offering winter fun at the river! Fife's, the Triple R, and Rainbow Cattle Company are just some of the hot spots. Info: Russian River Chamber of Commerce, 1-877-644-9001.

### Saturday, January 17

Alameda County Leather Corps presents "Leather Elegance 2003" at Elio's Banquet Room in San Leandro, with a \$30 donation available at [www.frantix.net](http://www.frantix.net) or by calling 1-866-372-6849.

### Sunday, January 18

Tony Koester hosts a soda/beer bust at the Eagle today from 1500-1800 to benefit Stop AIDS Project's Leather Events program, only \$8, with raffles, etc.

### Wednesday, January 21

Underwear Buddies show off their "unmentionables" at 933 Harrison. It's Underwear Unity. Call 777-HEAD for info.



## SEXUALITY

# Same old stories, nice new package

by Jim Nawrocki

Best Gay Erotica 2004 edited by Richard Labonté, selected by Kirk Read; Cleis Press, \$14.95

Since 1997, Richard Labonté has edited the *Best Gay Erotica* series. For over 20 years, he worked with the A Different Light bookstores in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. So Labonté has earned his stripes when it comes to assessing the past and future of gay erotica. In his foreword to the book, he identifies some of the themes that seem to appear each year. These include "the first-time account, the doomed-love tale, the strangers-in-heat fable, the hustler-with-a-heart moment, [and] the hot-hot-hot-sex experience." All this, and more, is represented in the 2004 edition.

Kirk Read, whose 2001 memoir *How I Learned to Snap* was reissued as a Penguin paperback last year, worked with Labonté to select the stories that made it into the current *Best Gay Erotica*. In his introduction, "What We've Always Done," Read offers a primer on gay sexuality and a brief history of gay erotica; and he makes a case for the positive role that erotica and fantasy play in gay culture. "It is a testament to the creativity and endurance of queer people that we meet yet again in these pages to grant one another access to honest, explicit descriptions of the erotic impulses that drive us," he writes.

These erotic impulses are, of course, as varied and unique as the people who experience them, and any "best of" erotic anthology is likely to leave someone feeling

## BEST GAY erotica

SELECTED AND INTRODUCED BY KIRK READ  
EDITED BY RICHARD LABONTÉ

left out. Still, the selections offered in this collection represent a good sampling. They even include an idea that, at least in Labonté's view, hasn't been presented before: the erotic possibilities of farting. Jay Neal's story "Time Out" is a light-hearted, *Twilight Zone*-like tale of a bear admirer who discovers that he can literally stop time, and thus fulfill his erotic urges, each time he breaks wind. This gimmick is never really explained, and doesn't have to be, since the story is nothing more than a playful look at what must be a very common wish, the desire to freeze time and have the world at your disposal.

### Different strokes

The collection includes several veterans of gay erotica. Among these is Simon Sheppard, represented here by "Going Down, Going Down Down," an excerpt from the anthology *Boyfriends from Hell*. It's a tale about online hookups, crack, and a diaper fetish, and Sheppard brings to it the distinctive, even erudite voice

that characterizes his work. The equally cerebral Ian Philips, who brought us such acclaimed anthologies as *See Dick Deconstruct: Literotica for the Satirically Bent* and *Satyriasis*, offers the story "Through a Glory Hole Darkly," about the pleasures of anonymous sex.

Labonté and Read also recognize novel-length work. One of the books they excerpt is Matt Bernstein Sycamore's *Pulling Taffy*. Bernstein's somewhat frenetic style is well-suited for writing about sex, even if it detracts from the overall novel; and the flow of this particular selection is very effective.

A much longer excerpt, "Asking for It," from Terrance Flynn's novel *The Ghosting Effect*, describes a young man's visit to his first sex party. Flynn's prose is well-paced and, at times, even lyrical as it leads the reader through an array of enticing sexual tableaux.

One of the more ingenious stories is Trebor Healey's "Fishers of Men," in which a steamy erotic encounter in a YMCA sauna is conducted while the participants vocally debate the philosophical and political underpinnings of gay sex. It's not only a brainy story, but a hot one. Ron Winterstein's "Huh?," a dialogue between two young men having sex, is about as stream-of-consciousness as a piece of writing can be. The conversation runs together without paragraph breaks, and at times Winterstein uses several lines of strung-together vowels and consonants to represent the lovers' noisy appreciation of each other. Given the variety of tales offered between its covers, *Best Gay Erotica 2004* is sure to satisfy. ▽

## The L Word

◀ Arts cover

na rejuvenated." Very funny.

The Reviva receptionist turns out to be an ex, played by director/co-writer Rose Troche's ex, Guinevere Turner, also a co-writer. (Troche and Turner broke up filming *Go Fish*, their 1994 homage to working-class lesbian community, Chicago-style.) Turner, so good at hypocritical seduction, shifts tactics to give sisterly advice: "Recovery's supposed to be hell." Between an orchid and a cactus, the camera discovers a client cautiously seating herself on a rubber donut. This brief sequence, a complex mix of painfully intimate contradictions, is brilliant comedy.

### Straight edge

Producer/co-writer Ilene Chaiken and her collaborators play cat-and-mouse with straight expectations. The lackadaisical two-hour pilot for *The L Word*, an upscale designer version of the feel-good ensemble piece haunting gay film fests, makes obvious concessions to its cable audience. As the episodes progress, subversion sets in. The chief concession is Jenny, the straight girl-next-door, whose adoring boyfriend turns his garage into her studio. (This transformation kicks off the pilot, January 18.)

This petite brunette — her pink Tee sporting a puppy face over the motto, "Be nice to me, I



Jenny (Mia Kirshner) is the series' chief concession to cable realities.

had a ruff day" — is a writer. (Note the coffee cup beside her laptop; product placements include Macs and Minis.) Actress Mia Kirshner has the round face, big black eyes, sparkly lashes, button nose, straight black hair, and stick limbs of a Japanese cartoon. These attributes (along with a taste for Nietzsche) attract the attention of tall, lean stallion Marina, who owns the dyke cafe.

Marina's pursuit of Jenny is heroic. Each time she's rebuffed, actress Karina Lombard looks away with the proud stoicism of a native wronged by a tourist. Her efforts pay off when Jenny faints from the sheer psychic strain of

being a good girl. ("Longing," February 1.) The eternal-triangle business drags out *ad tedium*, but the girls' trips to the loo pay off in the confines of a unisex stall. Boyfriend (Eric Mabius) enters for a whiz, and presto, delicious farce. Jenny's fate seems sealed when her old professor (Julian Sands) insists she explore her lesbian demons — for art's sake. ("Lies, Lies, Lies," February 8.) As with Sade's Justine, Jenny's initiation is about watching a pretty innocent suffer — and it's all for a good cause.

The second concession is the central couple: stable, home-own-

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Fri 16

### Daphne Gottlieb @ JSC

Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents a book release party and reading of *Final Girl* by Performance Poet Daphne Gottlieb, who stitches together the ivory tower and the gutter just using her tongue. *Final Girl* — the last girl left alive in "slasher" syntax — traces the history of the femme fatale in a sequence of sexy-and-tart, dark-and-comic, low-down and high-hearted poems and stories. Gottlieb has been widely published in journals and anthologies, including on *nerve.com* and in *Exquisite Corpse* and the forthcoming *Short Fuse: A Contemporary Anthology of Global Performance Poetry*. She anchored two national performance poetry tours, appearing across the country with the "Slam America" bus tour and with the notorious Sister Spit wordsters. She is poetry editor of the online queer literary magazine *Lodestar Quarterly*, as well as of the fabulous new other magazine. \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jon-simsctr.org

### Robert Altman's

#### 'The Company'

#### @ Embarcadero Cinema

Robert Altman's new dance drama, *The Company* (Sony Pictures Classics), teams up with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago to offer a fictional look at the drama and very unglamorous work behind one of the most beautiful and ethereal art forms. Ry (Nave Campbell) works a night job as a nightclub waitress but by day is an aspiring ballerina under the tutelage of company director Alberto Antonelli (Malcolm McDowell). During a seasonal break, Ry meets young chef Josh (James Franco) and love blooms. \$9.75 (\$7 seniors; children under 12; matinee). 1 Embarcadero Center. Info: 267-4893

### Opening Night Party @ YBCA

Celebrate the opening of three spectacular new visual arts exhibitions: *Bang the Machine: Computer Gaming Art and Artifacts*; *Mark Lombardi: Global Networks*; and *Tom Marioni: Golden Rectangle*. Featuring a Dance Dance Revolution showcase, where the nation's hottest DDR competitors showcase their skill and creativity in playing one of the most popular arcade dance games, with music by DJ Fuzzy Logic with DEMO visuals showcase, a Sony Playstation freestyle hip-hop show and more. *Bang the Machine* addresses the pervasive influence of computer game culture; *Mark Lombardi's Global Networks* uses large-scale drawings to illustrate connections between political leaders, corporate leaders, religious institutions and members of organized crime; and *Tom Marioni's Golden Rectangle*, with Buddhist inspired drawings and "The Temple of Geome-



Graffiti-inspired cult artist Barry McGee's *Untitled #29* (Gallery Paule Anglim, SF) is part of the SF International Art Exposition at Fort Mason Center. See Friday.

try." \$10 adv; \$12 door; free for YBCA members. 8-11pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Galleries & Forum, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St). Tix/info: 978-2787; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

### Patrick Rock & Lena Wolff @ SF Arts Commission Gallery

Opening reception: "UTOPIA" by Patrick Rock, and "I see the truth shining in the eyes of every misfit" by Lena Wolff, curated by Natasha Garcia-Lomas. Both of these sculptural installations appropriate from history and nature to make commentary on current politics and the media. "UTOPIA" utilizes three cardboard geodesic domes to offer an interpretation of *The Allegory of the Cave* from Plato's *Republic*, in which prisoners facing a wall and unable to turn their heads mistake shadows cast by puppeteers behind them as the actual objects. Wolff's "I see the truth shining..." offers test-based sculpture and drawings to explore the natural environment, the excesses of consumer culture, and social injustice. Free. 6-8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (ground floor, at McAllister). Info: www.sfacc-gallery.org

### SF Int'l Art Exposition @ Fort Mason Center

The sixth annual San Francisco International Art Exposition, presented by Thomas Blackman Associates, hosts exhibitions by some of the world's leading contemporary art dealers, showcasing works from established and emerging artists from around the

globe. The exhibition attracts more than 15,000 visitors each year. Fort Mason Center. \$12 gen'l; \$10 student/senior. Runs Thru Jan. 19; 11am-7pm Fri & Sat; 11am-6pm Sun & Mon. Info: www.sfiac.com

### MAX TGIF @ The Center

Join the Men of MAX and guests every 1st & 3rd Friday at The Center, for "after-work" cocktails and socializing. Max TGIFs begin at 6pm and run until 9pm when many members and guests get together for dinner at local restaurants. There will be an admission price for everyone, but that will include all of your drinks! 6-9pm. The Center, 1800 Market St., 2nd floor lobby. Info: www.maxonline.org

### 'Dykes on Mykes'

#### @ Club Savoy, Santa Clara

"Dykes On Mykes" — A Women's Music Showcase Extravaganza! (honorary dykes welcome). Tonight's Special: The Rose Street House Of Music Off-Site Tour Collaboration featuring Rising Tide, Irina Rivkin and Maria Quiles. Come enjoy sweet lavender music by red-hot performers and support local Women's Music! Tasty drink specials & DJ dancing after the performance. The Rose Street House of Music is a Berkeley house concert and grassroots musical community featuring both local and nationally touring women singer-songwriters. Rose Street has birthed two compilations, and 12 tours. This is an l/b/t venue, but all gay friendly folk are welcome to attend. \$5-\$20 sliding. 8:30pm. Every 3rd Friday of the month. Club Savoy, 3546 Flora Vista Ave., Santa Clara. Info: 6904-244-6909 www.clubsavoy.com

### Linda Trunzo's '3rd Sex' @ Space 743

Opening reception: *3rd Sex*, new paintings by Linda Trunzo. Her work includes that which is not seen and often eliminated as opposed to that which is more commonly seen in popular culture. It is the subtle gestures indicating the range between masculinity and femininity that informs the work. Imaged in billboard style, the paintings assume the presence of the contemporary advertising/electronic age/Hollywood movie star in-you-face blur of the modern world. Free. 6-8pm. Exhibition runs Wed-Sun, noon-5pm (& by appt.) thru Feb. 28. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080.

### Paula West & Eric Reed Trio @ The Plush Room

One of the country's leading jazz vocalists, Paula West, returns to the Plush Room with the Eric Reed Trio

for a five-week run, following her third consecutive engagement at New York's Algonquin Hotel. An evening of romance, humor and sophisticated swing. \$25 & \$30. 8pm Wed-Sat; 5pm Sun. Thru Feb. 15. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

### 'Poets' Theater Jamboree' @ Small Press Traffic/CCA

Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center at CCA presents the wild and lovely "Poets' Theater Jamboree," an annual showcase of poets as playwrights, directors actors. Featuring Laynie Browne's *Zoanthella* and *Zoanthina: Tribulations of the Larval Anemone Princesses*, directed by Stefani J. Barber; kari edwards' *An Opera: Gertrude Stein in C*; Danil Kharms' *Anecdotes from the Life of Pushkin*, directed by Brent Cunningham; Rodney Koenke's *Road to Inner Houston*; John Wieners' *Asphodel in Hell's Despite*, directed by Kevin Killian, and a Stephanie Young play directed by David Hadbawnik. \$10. 7:30pm. Timken Lecture Hall, California College of the Arts (CCA), 1111 Eighth St. (near 16th & Wisconsin). Tix/info: 551-9278; www.spt-traffic.org

### 'Citizen of Trees' @ Noh Space

What is freedom and what will we sacrifice for it? Do we exchange one prison for another? A woman faces unexpected transformations, considers impossible choices, and endures the shifting nature of time in Cassie Terman's atmospheric solo performance *Citizen of Trees*. Weaving monologue, movement and music with improv and archetypal imagery, *Citizen of Trees*. is an allegory of safety and escape. Directed by Allen Willner. \$15-\$20. 8pm. Fri, Sat & Sun thru Feb. 1. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. Tix/info: 621-7978; www.theatreofyugen.org

### WOW Festival @ Venue 9

Women on the Way Festival kicks off with *Without Ourselves*, 5 Verses on *Digital Identity* by Elsewhere Troupe, *Aqua and Doorjam* by Rebecca Pappas and Dancers, and *L'Heure Verte* by Dance Elixir, choreographed by Leyya Tawil. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. (7 p.m. Sun.). Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix: 289-2000. The WOW Fest continues through the week, with shows on Saturday and Sunday nights, and again on Thursday night, January 22. For program details, visit [www.Venue9.com](http://www.Venue9.com)

## Sat 17

### 'Karma' @ El Rio

Grand opening: "Karma," a queer multicultural extravaganza with DJs Anita Lofton, Garcia Sinclair, Emcee's Tina D'Elia and Skeeter, and performances by Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshades, Lipstick Conspiracy, Rusty Hips, Alex U. INN and BOYZ, Fresh! Transformers, Celestina Meow Meow, Stiletto, and Harlem

Shakes Spoken Word Artists Juba Kalamka and Mysha Perry. Catering: Fabulous Hot & Cool Good Food Cool Raffle Prizes, Alluring Insatiable Go Go Boy and Girl Dancers! \$10. Door opens 8pm; shows at 9pm; DJ'd dancing 10:30pm-2am. El Rio, 3158 Mission St. (at Precita). Info: ClubKarma@hotmail.com; www.elriosf.com

### 'In Light Of' @ Hollis Street Project, Emeryville

Opening reception: "In Light Of" — Twelve Emerging Fine Art Photographers, brought together by a shared passion for capturing light. M. Victoria Vargas examines our separation from nature. Sophia J. Bowart creates dynamic portraits exploring/exploding human experience. Joe Decker captures the spirit and form of wilderness. Roger Gilbert evokes symbols and metaphors of deeper truths. Free. 1-4pm. Exhibition runs thru Feb. 27. 5900 Hollis St., Emeryville. Info: Jonathan Baldwin, 831-438-3732; jabb.bigpicture@yahoo.com

### THRIVE @ The Center

"Thrive," a group of guys, gay HIV+, breaking the isolation of HIV. Enjoy coffee, conversation, and fun company. A fragrance free event. Donation suggested. 1-3pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), First Floor.

### Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

Join other gay men regardless of Spanish-speaking ability for a potluck and fiesta at a house in the Castro. Info: Call Al at 420-4670.

### MAX Hike

#### @ Long Ridge Loop Trail

Join MAX at 10am for a Long Ridge Loop Trail Hike. According to trail-blazing guidebook author Tom Stienstra, "When you walk the ridgeline here, you are rewarded with gorgeous views of the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains, highlighted by the Big Basin Redwoods and Butan State Parks. This is one of the very best hikes on the Peninsula." Difficulty: 2 out of 5. Beauty: 9 out of 10 Sign up online and Paul will provide hiking details. For more information, check with Paul at 431-2422.

### Andrew Aldrich & Family Builders by Adoption @ Magnet

Magnet and A Different Light Bookstore present Andrew Aldrich, author of *How My Family Came to Be — Daddy, Papa and Me* and Kaija Langley, outreach worker for Family Builders by Adoption. Learn how more and more GLBT individuals and couples are choosing to become parents through adoption. Free. 4:30pm. 4122 18th St. (near Castro).

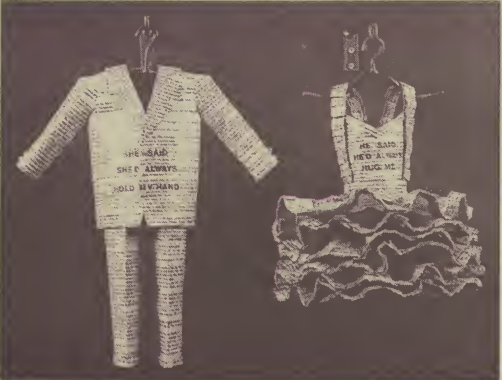
## Sun 18

### 'JSCinema' @ Jon Sims Center for the Arts

Debut program: The Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) hosts the first screening of its new resident program, "JSCinema," an independent film/video exhibition program for LGBTQ cinematic artists, offering bold perspectives about diverse race, sexuality, gender and humanitarian issues. Tonight: "She's Experimenting," an offering of short experimental films, moderated by Dolissa Medina, with filmmaker panelists Veronica Majano, Kirithi Nath and Elizabeth



"Nancy AKA Bulldog," oil on wood, by Linda Trunzo, part of her *3rd Sex* exhibition at Space 743. See Friday.



Donna Rosenthal's *he said...she said* (Koelsch Gallery, Houston, TX), a 2003 sculpture created with vintage romance novels, text and steel, is part of the SF International Art Exposition at Fort Mason Center. See Friday.





Faerie elder John Burnside is guest of honor at "Smack Dab," an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-bob Roberts at Magnet in the Castro. See Wednesday.

Chavez discussing the challenges and freedoms for queer women of color working in a genre already marginalized in the world of filmmaking. \$5-\$10 siding (NOTAFLOF). 6pm. Every third Sunday. 1519 Mission St. Wheelchair access: call 554-0402. Info/reservations: [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

#### John D'Emilio's 'Lost Prophet'

@ **Modern Times Bookstore**  
Reading & book signing with John D'Emilio, author of *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* (Simon & Schuster). Rustin is one of the most important figures in the history of the American Civil rights movement. A teacher and key advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., an international apostle of peace, and organizer of the famous 1963 March on Washington, Rustin brought Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence to America and helped launch the civil rights movement. Nonetheless, Rustin has been largely erased by history, in part because he was an African American homosexual. Historian D'Emilio tells the full and remarkable story. Free. 2pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th St). Info: 282-9246; [www.moderntimes-bookstore.com](http://www.moderntimes-bookstore.com)

**MAX Victorian Home Walk**  
Join MAX for a Victorian Home Walk. Meet by the clock in the lobby of the Westin St. Francis Hotel at 11am. The walk is easy and the sites are terrific. Learn a little something while stimulating your appetite for lunch. Lunch together at about 1:15pm down on Union Street, where tour concludes. \$20. Info: [maxonline.org](http://maxonline.org)

**Tom Lynch & SF Prime Timers @ Unitarian Church**  
The San Francisco Prime Timers, a club for mature gay and bisexual men, welcome Thom Lynch, Executive Director of the SF LGBT Community Center, who will speak about "new beginnings" at The Center. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). 2-4pm. All welcome. Info: 552-1997.

## Mon 19

#### 'A Walk in the Woods' @ Phoenix Theatre

Second Wind Productions presents a staged reading of Lee Blessing's political play *A Walk in the Woods*, set in the idyllic woods of Geneva as two nuclear arms negotiators may possibly decide the fate not just of America and Russia, but the world. A timely exploration of the perils of nuclear weapons in an unstable world. Are you nervous yet? Free. 7pm. 414 Mason St., 6th floor. Info: 820-1460; [secondwind.8m.com](http://secondwind.8m.com)

## Tue 20

#### 'Viva Variety 37'

##### @ Buriel Clay Theatre

Showman extraordinaire Steve Murray hosts "Viva Variety 37," a benefit for Openhouse, a residential assisted living project for San Francisco LGBT seniors. As always a great lineup filled with plenty of music, comedy, dance and performance art. Featuring Court Alexander (LA-based pop singer); Houston Allred (star of *Viva Variety 31*, making his second appearance); Betsy Salkind (the squirrel lady is back); Velocity Circus (physical circus acts to amaze you); Kathleen Young (an ageing diva attempts to dance); Peggy L'Eggs (off her meds and back in action); Alma Esperanza Cunningham Movement (modern dance at its finest); Shelley Steward (new comic ready to test his mettle); and Sahra (singer/songwriter extraordinaire). \$15 (\$10 seniors and students). 8pm. Buriel Clay Theatre, 762 Fulton St. (at Webster; free parking lot available). [www.vivavariety.org](http://www.vivavariety.org)

#### Faux King Fudgie Frottage @ 'Trannyshack'

Everybody's favorite drag king, Fudgie Frottage, joins Hekline for the "2nd Annual Faux King Competition." DJ Pinky Ring spins. Miss Chocolate at the door. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison.

## Wed 21

#### Arthur Mitchell @ SFPALM

San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum (SFPALM) presents "A Conversation with Arthur Mitchell," former New York City Ballet principal, founder and artistic director of Dance Theatre of Harlem. Mitchell will speak with moderator Brad Rosenstein and curator Sheryl Flatow about his stellar career, particularly the essential impact of his working with Balanchine. Video clips will be shown. \$15 gen'l; \$10 students/SFPALM members. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th Floor. Res/info: 255-4800; [www.sfpalm.org](http://www.sfpalm.org)

#### New Leaf Outreach to Elders @ The Center

New Leaf Outreach to Elders presents a workshop for senior gay men with HIV. This 2-hour, one-session "event" will be facilitated by renowned integrative health practitioner Ron Carter M.D., who has vast experience working with groups from many communities of diverse cultural backgrounds and ages. Featuring "emotional fitness" music and movement enabling participants to joyfully get in touch with each other while gradually building a sense of community. Explore a more

non-verbal, intuitive connection with yourself and others. \$10 donation (NOTAFLOF). 6pm. Ceremonial Room (4th floor), SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info/registration: Bill Kirkpatrick, 255-2937, ext 313.

#### 'Smack Dab' @ Magnet

Thriving octogenarian John Lyon Burnside, a living legend and our very precious gay icon, is guest of honor at "Smack Dab," an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-bob Roberts, making the Castro safe for performance again. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany, plus your charm, magic and cheerful can-do attitude, or just come and watch and cheer folks on. All ages and genders welcomed and adored. Faerie elder Burnside, longtime companion to Harry Hay, is a founder of the Circle of Loving Companions and of the Radical Faeries. An optical engineer by training, John invented the Teleidoscope and the Symmetricon, applying principles of spirituality to everyday life. His decades of reading and experience have brought him deep wisdom and insight. John flows with marvelous stories and anecdotes, and he'd love to address your questions. Give yourself the gift of meeting this sweet man! 7pm signup, 7:30pm show. Magnet (the brand new gay men's neighborhood health center), 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood).



Local songwriter-made-good Garrin Benfield and his hot band play a late-night show at the Plush Room. See Thursday.

## Thu 22

#### Garrin Benfield Band @ The Plush Room

Experience the hottest young guitarist in San Francisco as the Garrin Benfield Band fills the Plush Room with blues/bluegrass songs sung in a "voice every bit as creamy as the rumors uttered by another Bay Area favorite, Chris Isaak. Musically more eclectic, Benfield feels as safe climbing the Bluegrass covered hillsides of Appalachia as he does soaring upward through the Psychedelic fog of Mt. Tamalpais. On his guitar, Benfield is one minute seducing his audience into a steamy romance, another abducting them into a breathless panic and finally swinging the throngs into delightful fits of ecstatic dosey-do." — Jason Durant. Featuring Benfield on lead vocals, guitar and loop machine, Berklee School virtuoso Russ Gold banging away at the gongs, Marin County electric and upright improv bass maven Joshua Zucker, and music maestro Michael Rodriguez on piano. \$10. 10pm. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (at Leavenworth). Tix/info: Jason at 673-0756.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon  
**Out & About**  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

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photo by Steven Underhill

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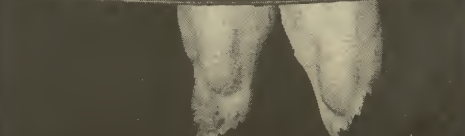
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# Is there life on Mars? Is there cable?

by Victoria A. Brownworth

What a happenin' year 2004 is turning out to be! It's just one super TV moment after another.

The biggest TV event of the week was not the scandal over Britney Spears' nanosecond marriage. Excuse us, but is *this* the kind of heterosexual sacrosanctity the Right keeps invoking when it talks about marriage between men and women? Because from

where we sit, those little chapels in Vegas look like the best argument for gay marriage we can imagine. That marriage has gotten more hours of airtime than the time between "I do's and annulment.

But the big small-screen event was the incredible premiere of photos from Mars. Followed, appropriately, by our President, who himself is from Mars, excitedly borrowing a page from the JFK handbook (who knew there was a Junior Scholastic version?) and asser-

ting that the new push from his Administration would be flights to the red planet. Good thing there's nothing needs doing here on Earth! We hope the color scheme doesn't confuse Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge, since he already has his spectrum wrong.

We are old enough to remember the first moonwalk, which was (along with 9/11 and the Kennedy assassination) the most amazing TV moment in American history. But we have to admit, the pictures from Mars were pretty tremendous, and just the kind of thing that makes us love TV. There is a decided measure of excitement that attaches to seeing, on TV, what is actually happening on a planet millions of miles away. Truly awesome.

Of course, nothing is quite as awesome as a good queer love triangle, and we have certainly been waiting a long time for one to hit network TV. We would like to remind our dear readers that we predicted, months ago, that there would be a lesbian love triangle involving Bianca, Lena and Maggie on *All My Children*.

We were right. It's now heating up before our very eyes and promises to explode during February sweeps. From the little showdown between Lena and Maggie on New Year's Eve to the daily tussling for Bianca's hand, it's looking more and more like real lesbians in real life. We're loving it. We enjoy the banter between Bianca and Lena as they find their way back to each other. We enjoy the way these two look at each other and tentatively touch, still unsure of where their relationship is going due to the complications of Bianca's pregnancy. This frisson between Bianca and Lena feels so real in the midst of soapdom that we are more than a little tempted to fast-forward through every episode just to watch the girls cavort.

## Getting closer

Speaking of girls cavorting, there might be some of that going on this month on HBO's fabulous *Six Feet Under*, which already has a front-and-center gay male storyline. Look for Mena Suvari, Kevin Spacey's teenage obsession from the Oscar-winning *American Beauty* (written by Alan Ball, who also created *SFU*), to join the cast. She'll be cozying up to Claire (Lauren Ambrose). Stay tuned to see just how cozy these two will get. We could certainly use more lesbians on the tube to give those queer guys some gender parity.

Gender parity of a much more sobering sort was the topic of the season debut of *Law & Order: SVU*, which dealt with male/male

rape. This topic is rarely addressed anywhere outside of prison dramas, and we were quite pleased to see *SVU* assert both the fact of male/male rape and the complexities of it. The perpetrators were not gay, but did accuse their victims of being queer and called them by female names. This very good, solid episode, set in the fraternity world, explored the culture of masculinity, its violent underside, and how dangerous that culture can become for men on either side of the sexual divide.

The gender divide is providing the electricity in the biggest reality-show splash of the new season, NBC's *The Apprentice*. Airing in the coveted Wednesday-night lineup and created by Mark Bur-

nett, the exec producer of *Survivor*, *Apprentice* puts Donald Trump in the CEO's seat as 16 contestants eager to make their mark on the business world vie to win. The stag-

ing is very like *Survivor*, which makes the show

snappy, interesting and full of superior backbiting and intrigue. Just set the VCR on Wednesdays to catch *The Apprentice*, *The West Wing*, and the still-superb *Law & Order*.

Speaking of *Survivor*, we hope this season's presentation, *Survivor: All Stars*, can top the one which just ended, *Survivor: Pearl Islands*, because it was simply fabulous and we hated to see it end. Not only did we love that a woman of color won (Sandra Diaz-Twine, the cutest thing we'd seen in pseudo swimwear this side of a *Sports Illustrated* calendar), but we also loved the quixotic Rupert and totally hated Jon. It was just the kind of reality TV that makes you want another episode right now. Can we wait for *All Stars* to debut after the Superbowl on February 1? We doubt it. Will all the queers be back? All the girlfriends? What kind of alliances will be formed? Will a previous winner win? The possibilities will no doubt make for another fantastic *Survivor* season.

## Trickle down

Apropos of nothing, we like how *Queer Eye* is now simply part of the vernacular. We heard references recently on several TV shows (dramas and sitcoms) and have seen one set of commercials for Comcast cable which features a Fab Five queer-alike. Looks like trickle-down queerness to us.

But back to reality. Reality TV is definitely the way the new season is playing out. The new shows are debuting this week; many are fun. *American Idol 3* (are we ready for another round of Simon Says?), *The Bachelorette 2* (wait, we haven't even recovered from

Trista and Ryan's wedding yet!) and *Average Joe: Hawaii* (this time no pretense that hunks won't be added to the mix; we hate this show a lot because of that. *Average Joe Plus a Whole Lotta Hunks* should be the real moniker. We really want to see the gal go for an average Joe, but don't believe it can happen with the hotties tossed in.) All worth a look, but not much more.

Other reality vehicles include another round of *Mole*, this time with pseudo-celebs in Yucatan. The show is smart and incredibly fast-paced; and with Dennis Rodman and Amanda Lewis in the mix, it promises to be a lot of fun and not a little risqué. Ditto *America's Next Top Model*, which debuts this week with even more hair-pulling than last season. For those who want to see sexy women go at it on the network that brings us wrestling most nights of the week, tune in on Tuesdays. It makes a nice segue from *The Simple Life*, where our gal Paris is trying to reprise her Internet tapes in primetime.

Speaking of *PrimeTime*, we must give grudging kudos to Charlie Gibson for holding Pete Rose's feet to the fire in what was the most annoying interview we've seen since Diane Sawyer played with George Bush. Utterly unrepentant, clearly not caring how many people he deceived and hurt with his decade-and-a-half of lies, Rose continues to wrangle for his seat in the baseball Hall of Fame. We are reminded of the latter days of Richard Nixon, as he tried to rehabilitate himself into an elder statesman. No one can dispute Rose's baseball record. But part of playing the game is playing by the rules, which he most assuredly did not. No one should rush to let him back in the game or into the Hall.

We also want to applaud Charlize Theron, who has been on every talk and morning show the past two weeks for her push to get the story of Aileen Wuornos, lesbian and murderer, to the screen in *Monster*. Lee was a tragic figure, and Theron recreates that tragedy and the frustrations in Lee's life in her stunning portrayal. Nor has Theron minimized the impact of violence against women. Theron told *ET* of her own experiences with that crime. Will Theron be another Hillary Swank come Oscars?

Finally, TV brought us our favorite quote of perhaps the past four years when former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill commented on how out of it President Bush was in Cabinet meetings. "He was like a blind man in a room full of deaf people." Is it any wonder President Bush wants to go to Mars? If only there had been room on the Rover. Bush could have worn his flightjacket. Talk about a photo op. ▼

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## The L Word

◀ page 35

ing, white-collar assimilationists. High-strung Bette (Beals) is busy being an art-world exec while buffering Tina (Holloman) stays home to have their baby. Maybe straight America won't consider that a concession. The quest for sperm donors is handled with a light comic touch until it achieves a surprising sex-farce anti-climax. Then a big black stud answers the call. Tina, being white, freaks out. Bette, being half-black, takes that

personally. Think Douglas Sirk on Prozac.

Who should intervene but Pam Grier (aka *Foxy Brown*), as Bette's all-black sister, having trouble with her 12-step program. No trained actress, Grier brings something unsettling to these La-La-Lesbian shenanigans: authenticity. Suddenly, Bette's perfectionism stands revealed as a moral flaw. Heart-strings will be tugged when the alkie sticks up for the yuppie against their homophobic father (a majestic Ossie Davis) in "Lawfully," February 15. The episode includes a giddy-making

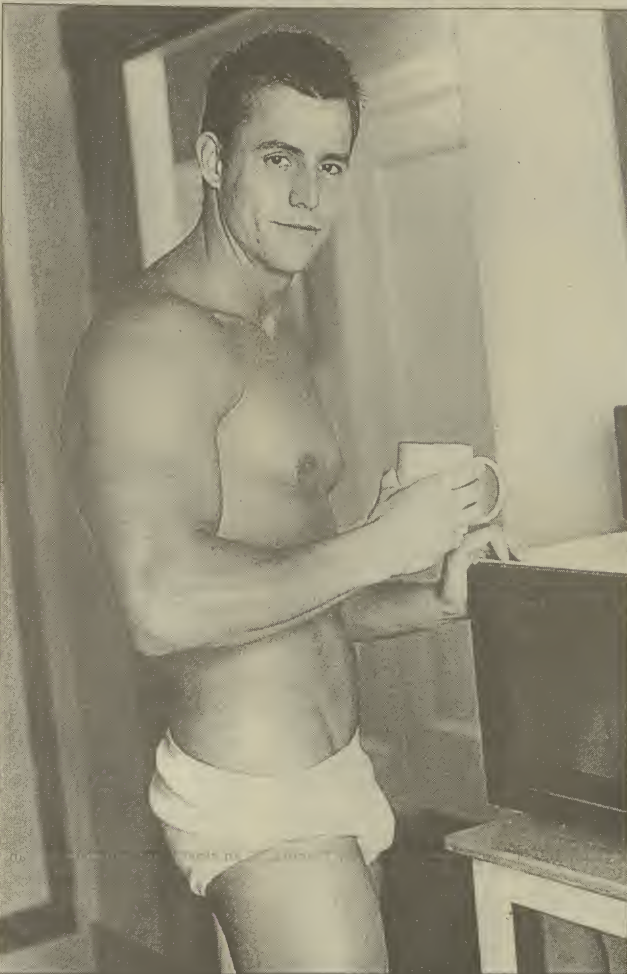
deconstruction of the male gaze by a beefy cop.

Lesbian nation has been waiting a long time for this love letter. For once, fans won't have to invent their own subtext, imagine decent production values, or feel sold out by their more successful sisters. The paradox is, we get this fabulous paean to personal political freedom as the US slips into a Fascist morass. Maybe lesbians, like dolphins, are here to heal us; ▼

**The L Word, Sundays on Showtime, starting January 18.**



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## PARTING GLANCES

**JOHN AT THE PENDULUM ON 12-6**  
We talked about your friend the "social butterfly." I lost your number!  
☎ 71019

**Blow Buddies Friday Nov. 28**  
You bare-chested/shaved head, slim: bare-chested with glasses. Would like to meet you. We cruised, but did not meet each other.  
☎ 71000

**Ricardo**  
We met waiting for the "F" line at Castro about 7 pm. I was heading for an art opening. Let's continue our conversation. Ernie.  
☎ 71001

**12/18 Park Hyatt PVT Party**  
You B-tender at ice bar. Great smile, handsome, friendly. Need to see you. Please call.  
☎ 71031

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Seeking Friendship**  
GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. Over 21.  
☎ 71026

**Looking For Mr. Right East Bay**  
You honest, sincere, stable, good guy. Single white male, HIV- between 35 to 50 years, friendship long term. Me single white male HIV- 43 years, Gemini. Good guy friendship long term.  
☎ 71025

**Successful Gay White Male**  
for Gay Asian male. I'm 47 5' 10" tall, 160 lbs. brown hair and eyes. Interested in a LTR with a responsible Asian male 18-35. I enjoy skiing, water-skiing, horse back riding, volleyball and I love life to the fullest. S  
☎ 71027

**Free Spaghetti**  
Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact.  
☎ 72907

**Snuggler- (not smuggler)!** Seeks companion - Southern Contra Costa (Alamo, Danville, WC) for warm nights together. Interest in Trains, Trains, Travel, Opera, Symphony, Asian Languages, Love, love, love!  
☎ 71002

**Handsome Libra Looking For Love**  
HIV+ GWM, SF, Likes music, art. Looking for more than a one night stand. No drugs, pot ok... 6' Br Hr, Br eyes  
☎ 71003

**MASCULINE GAM 150 GWM**  
Gym toned, easy going, sincere guy seeks GWM between 37-50 to date on a regular basis. You should be in-shape, hairy a plus.  
☎ 71020

**CRAVING AFFECTION?**  
Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding friend to talk to, share experiences, and be held and touched. Slim, masculine guy 44 seeks another slim guy 18 to 40's. Any race.  
☎ 71021

**I'm Attracted To Mature Big Men**  
Looking for 50-65, 225-285, burly, portly, plump men. I'm GLM 45, HIV-, 5'10", 200, very affectionate, clean cut, smooth, love to make love, cuddle, like to read, walk, nature, my work.  
☎ 71040

**48 5'9" 150# GYM Toned Handsome**  
Seeks wkend L.T.R. w/Friend/Lover during the wk. We each live our busy lives, looking forward to the wkend & being together. Be 18-60 in-shape & go looking w/a cool attitude. I'm into art, reading, hiking, Zen & yoga, working out, & hot sex. S.F., Santa Rosa, San Raphael.  
☎ 71032

**VGL GHM IN AZ ISO Hot OlderMan**  
25, Aries, Boyish looks, charm and a bunch of fun too! Latino, tan, Hazel/Ely, 5'7", 135# seeking Hot Top, financially secure older man to spoil his boy.  
☎ 71033

## LESBIANS

**Lonely in Reno Need a PenPal**  
Single white lesbian looking to converse with any single women with hopes of possibly something more. I enjoy camping, horses, and spooky movies. No drugs or heavy drinkers.  
☎ 72904

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**GJM Into Heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b**  
worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimpt to both of us.  
☎ 71029

**On Call Free Oral Servicing**  
GWM will BJ/Rim/JO/Massage an hour minimum For incredible release. No reciprocation necessary. All Races welcome but must be 18-28, healthy, fit. Santa Cruz Area. Stay the Night??  
☎ 71004

**Novice Curious Nudist**  
Seeking more experienced buddy for heavy, intense J/O, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK, but mostly J/O. Your place pm preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, ults, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes or overnites encouraged. Like to explore being nude with another man w/o the pressure of performing in a oral/anal manner.  
☎ 71005

**Need A Dad??**  
Clean, healthy 68yo G.W. Masculine dad needs you too! Please be Bi/G. W. Masculine and over 0/40.  
☎ 71006

**WEEKDAY MORNING JO**  
Looking for nice "average Joe" 40-55 who would like to come over & let me show it to you. Touch it, bounce it, join me. I'm 40 tall, HIV+ nice package. Come jack with me.  
☎ 71023

**New Years Massage**  
Start the year off with a refreshing sensual erotic full body massage. Free for slim and trim masculine guys 18 to 40's by trim strong-handed masculine WM 44.  
☎ 71036

**Traveling Companion Sought**  
To share expenses for cruises, hotel, tours, etc. Any race to age 40. Plutonic relationship. Prefer gym goer and healthy eater. Must be non-smoker. No drugs either please.  
☎ 71042

**REDHEAD**  
SWM, 42, 5'10", 178#, ex Navy. Enjoys talk radio, tennis, chess, yard-work, and pet cat. Seeks relationship.  
☎ 71022

**Cocksucker Needed**  
Strip naked, get on your knees and open your mouth. Dominant trim waisted WM 44 with mushroom sausage seeks submissive trim waisted guy younger or same age.  
☎ 71043

**Hot Passionate East Bay Bottom**  
40 yro 5'9" 140 lbs. blond swimmer build. 8" Open to most scenes. Looking for top men for raw hot sex into most scenes.  
☎ 71024

**30'ish White Guy-Music LO**  
ver-Yoga-lover looking for relationship that is serious, but not too serious. Sober only! No drugs!  
☎ 71034

**Fuck Me!!**  
6' 1", 190 lb. German, Italian, is seeking more hung, smooth, slender guys to pump their rigid cocks into me on a regular basis.  
☎ 71035

**ISO Pie In Bay Area**  
Serious but ironic pie thrower seeks same for mutual fun and gratification. Not looking for love just pie. P.S. I never duck.  
☎ 71041

**Rim Chair Service Available**  
If you want your butt hole treated right, then bring it to me kissing sweet.  
☎ 71044

## FETISHES

**Soft Dick Fetish**  
Do you get horny, but don't get hard due to performance pressures, inhibitions, drugs, meds? No problem! Crazy about 69ing on limp dick. Prefer GWM like me; tall, inshape, hairy, mature, poz.  
☎ 71030

**Stroking For Hours**  
Seeking masculine/average buddy for heavy intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship while drinking/partying. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long party scenes or overnites only. S  
☎ 71007

**BI Kinky Sub Bottom In Bay Area**  
B/D, S/M, spanking, C/B/T, being rimmed, toys, hard cocks, slave, role-play, fireplace, hot tubs, singles or couples. Let's meet now!  
☎ 71008

**Mutual Rim Buddy**  
Me: 50 y.o. 6' 220# hairy, good looking, tattoos, Pa, Big Nips, HIV-. You: 55 or -, likes my type, HIV-, Rim chair, hairy crack, your place, am availability A+  
☎ 71037

**STR8? I Wanna Suck You Off!!**  
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☎ 71038

**Seek Mature Handball Top**  
by mature GWM receiver. Have sling. Leather plus. Looking for regular hookup in SF.  
☎ 71039

**I Enjoy Men With Moustache's**  
and no other facial hair. I'm similar, 49, 5' 9", 180, balding, Black and hung big. Oakland area. Over 40, beefy build big turn-ons. Private apartment, wanna play?  
☎ 71045

**Bondage Hobo**  
Homeless guy, completely bald; brown/red beard, 13EE, wide shoulders, bottom, looking for safe fun, bondage Boss!  
☎ 71046

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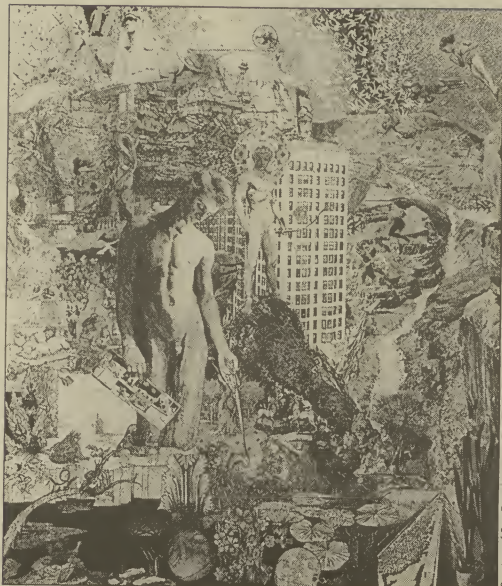
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Narkissos, pencil on paper and paste-up, 1976/91, by Jess

## Out There

◀ page 26

jumping up and down on the sofa in *Risky Business*. Hence the *Missy Impossible* movies are really all about his impossible quest to remain eternally youthful and desirable—and the sex object of his own movies.

"I understand that in his latest film, Tom's finally grown a beard, but I'll bet you ready money that it's full of hair products. Like the metrosexual, there is no mystery about his sexual preference. His stunningly successful film career is a testament to his passionate love affair with... Tom."

Simpson went on to observe, "When Air National Guard absentee **George W. Bush** dressed up in Cruise's *Top Gun* costume and used the USS **Abraham Lincoln** as a giant, nuclear-powered strap-on, that was as brazen an exhibition of crossdressing as there's ever been. But it was represented by Bush's PR machine as evidence of his 'real,' 'down-home,' 'all-guy' masculinity."

Finally, Simpson says, the advent of metrosexuality means that "someone who looks like a male masseur at a Palm Springs spa can become **Governor of California**."

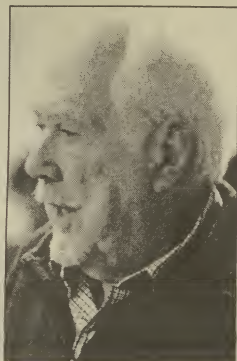
## Memento mori

San Francisco lost one of its major artistic spirits when painter and collage artist **Jess**, 80, died at the turn of the year. His collages, which he called paste-ups or assemblies, are among the most transcendent fantasycapes of 20th-century art. Partners with poet **Robert Duncan** until Duncan's death in 1988, Jess was the quintessential Bay Area bohemian artist, a vanishing breed.

Though famously a recluse, Jess gave an interview for the catalog of his retrospective, *Jess, A Grand Collage, 1951-1993*, which touched down at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1994. In it, he calls his *Narkissos* (1976-1991), a Jessterpiece from its permanent collection which SPMOMA has hung to honor his passing, "a grand obsession. The paste-up took me years and lured me into what still seems to me to be an endless, magical realm." Don't miss it on your next visit to the museum.

## Package store

The Company director **Robert Altman** to *Salon's* Amy Reiter



Altman on ballet: 'a fuckfest!'

on why he made a movie about the ballet: "It's very sexy. Oh, yeah. I mean, these people are buck naked out there! It's like they spray a little, thin suit on. These guys sit there with these big packages in front, and the girls are... well! That's why I think all these rich old men support the ballet. Their wives get into it, and they say, 'Oh, I'll do it! I'll put my bow tie on.' They sit there, and all these *pas de deux* are all about sex. It's a fuckfest!"

Altman also muses, "You know, I don't think this picture's gonna be huge at the box office. It's gonna be well-received, but it's not gonna get any 14-year-old boys, unless they're gay." We wish he wouldn't write off so blithely the **Billy Elliott** demographic.

## Strange blind items

Nothing official and it's too early to say anything to the press, but word on the street is that **SF Pride '04** is getting ready to name as grand marshals none other than that queer quintet from the show with the title that sounds like *Beer Sigh for the Bait Pies*.

But the really juicy part of the advance buzz is that **Papa Pride** may be close to clinching the deal on booking that **Australian pop diva** with the rabid international gay cult. She's also said to be the subject of that **groovy SF playwright-novelist's** new book.

Imperial alley: **A curious courtesan** from the Streets of San Francisco dropped us a line to announce that there is a "For Lease" sign at 710 Montgomery St., the original location of *The Black Cat*. Quick, someone call **José Sarria**: This is his big chance for a comeback! ▼

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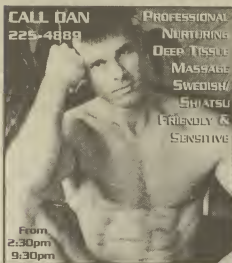


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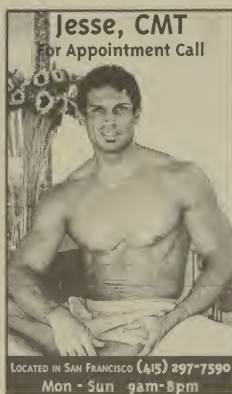
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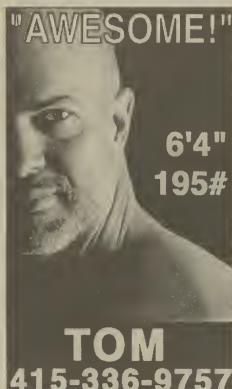
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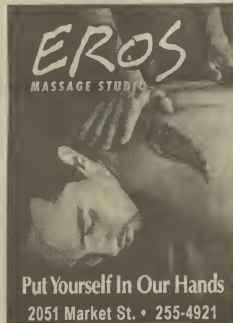
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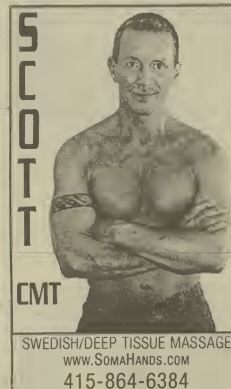
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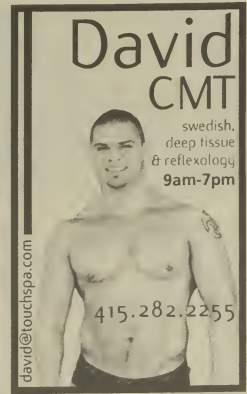
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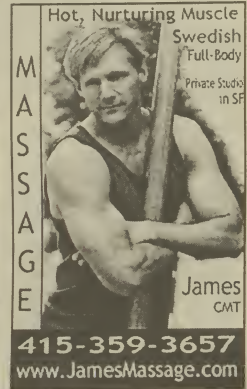
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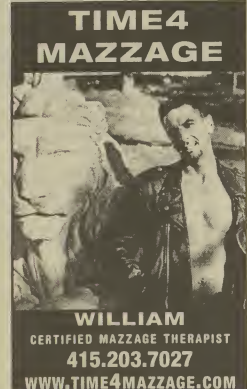
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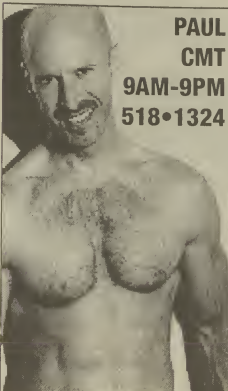
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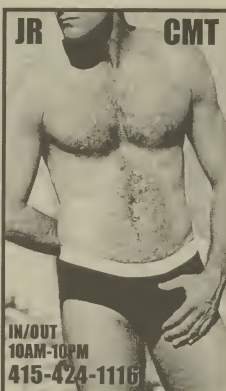
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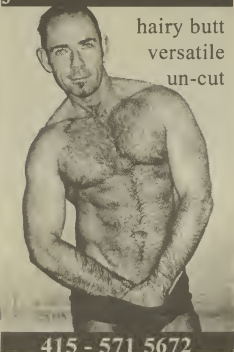
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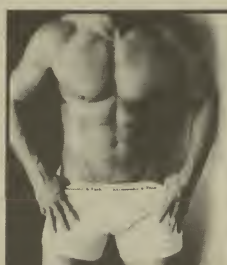
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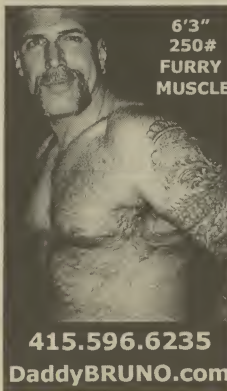


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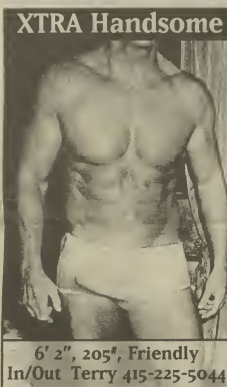
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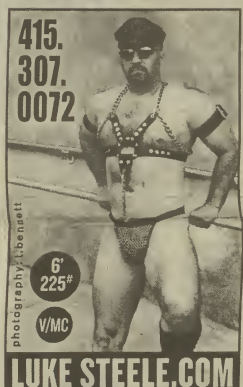
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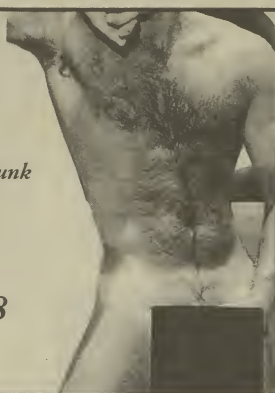
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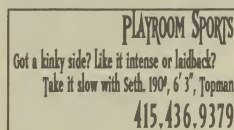
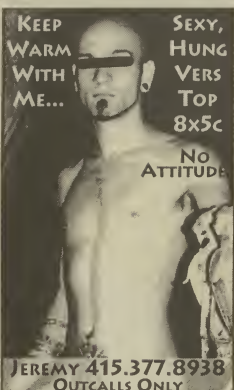
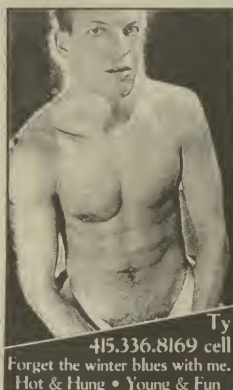
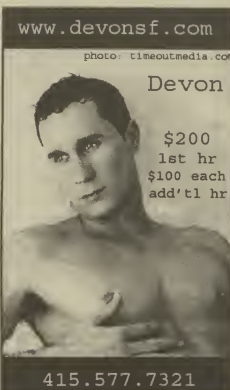
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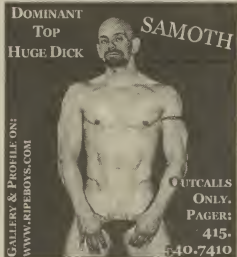
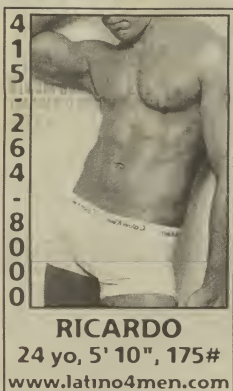
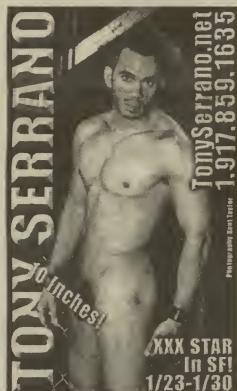
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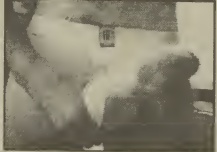
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## MODELS/ESCORTS

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## LATIN STUD

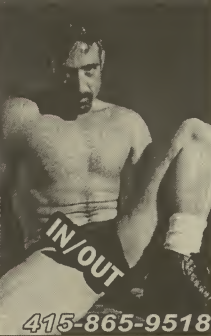


**804-2152**



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HONEST 9" THICK CUT LARGE  
SMOOTH LOW HANGERS. MUSCU-  
LAR LEAN GYM BODY. BIG LOAD  
WHEREVER YOU NEED IT MOST.  
BLONDE, 33YRS, 5'11", 170#.   
XLNT PERFORMER. TOTALLY AC-  
CURATE AD. TOP STUD. CALL IAN  
\$120 OUT-CALLS IN S.F.  
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Tom Braddock  
HORNY TOP

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Uniformed/Booted/Armed/Dominant  
**LEATHER COP**  
Pvt Training Facil 415-821-1342.  
DogCopSF@hotmail.com

**NEW YEAR BOY**  
**WWW.SJBOY.COM**  
27, 5'11" 165#, blond hair  
Pager/Voice: 888-325-3005

28yo, 5'9", 150#, 29w, 40c, smooth  
Your Fantasy? Strip Show? and?  
**CLASSIC ASIAN**  
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Oregon boy, 21,  
cute, smooth, br/br  
Fun, friendly 415-424-1502. Out.

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To This Young Hung Latin Top.  
5'7 140 with Xtra Thick 8" UC  
Swinging a nice set of heavy  
balls. Let's go for a ride!  
Eric (415) 505-1239. \$200/Out.

**CUTE 20 YO COLLEGE BOY**  
Nice and fun, hard tasty 8 in.  
Great ass, Chad. 415.756.3029.

Athletic Skater boy, 22, br/gr  
Lean, smooth, hung 415-210-9291.

AFFECTIONATE  
KISSABLE, CUTE  
BOTTOM BOY

LET ME MAKE YOU SMILE!  
26, slim, smooth, & I love to kiss!  
Blond, Blue & Tattooed; No drugs  
I am well-read, conversational &  
friendly; STD & Ego free!!!!  
\$120, Out only. 415-871-4228, SEAN

6'2"-160Lbs-Br/Bl/Hung 7-Cutie  
**21 Y/O HOT BOY**  
**TALL • YOUNG • HORNY WM**  
**323-251-1151 - SHAWN**  
Outcalls Only-In SF \$120/Hr.  
\$140 In South/East Bay Nr. BART

Frat Boy Hunk  
Solid Muscular (Pecs) Abs & Legs  
Deep throat and young jock ass  
5'9", 155#, 30W, 8" 640-4045

**EUROPEAN  
PORN MODEL**  
5'9", 215#, 10X6, 35yo, muscle body-  
builder. Out 24/7 415-239-6916,  
415-225-8827. Antony

Hot Yng Ath Blk 9"  
Out Only Tevin 415-724-2704.

FITNESS  
TRAINER

Tennis, Running, weight training and  
eating habits. Call Tony at 415-595-  
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hour.

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Erik 305-6856 Cute, slim, brn/grn  
clean cut, smooth body, versatile,  
7X6, 5'7", 130#, Gym toned. 25 yrs.

**GET MORE(TOP)!**  
**RENTDEREK.COM**  
GBM 6' 165# 9. 5X6 415 425 3735.

**24 HOURS**  
BRN HAIR 9 IN 29 IN WAIST • 305-3003

HOT TOP  
9.5 X 6

Thick and cut. Friendly Companion.  
Slim, handsome/attr. Young man, 33  
From mild to wild. Leather/kink +  
Out calls only. Beginners welcome.  
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**MAKE IT HAPPEN, MAN!!**  
Friendly & adaptable, 36yo/o hunk,  
versatile Italian. Dark skinned &  
hairy body, sensual & sexy. 6'3"/  
185#/8" cut. Fit, lean, muscles Bi  
Masculine Handsome, hot & spicy. In/  
Out \$120. Also Bay Area. Welcome  
diverse men, Call Maximo 415-621-  
4202

New SoCal boy, 23, 6'2", 160, br/hz  
Cut, smooth. 415-724-8734.

## BI BLK STUD TOP

Handsome hung and functional  
also friendly and very discreet.  
Out Only.  
CEDRIC • 510 776-5945.

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## Strictly Sex!

Record & Listen to personal ads

**Free!**

code: 1010

THE  
CONFIDENTIAL  
CONNECTION

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209-473-5959  
559-271-9999



18+ Orig: 800-225-1598

Hot  
Local Guys!

**MrN**

Bay Area's hottest chatline

**Men Meet Men Right Now!**

Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for

**FREE**

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510-281-2400 650-649-2500 925-955-2000



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**SPANK PARTY**  
2ND FRI. EACH MONTH  
PRIVATE SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE  
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BARBER**  
San Francisco's  
Premier Shaving Service  
FROM BACKS & BALLS TO BUTTS & BEYOND  
CALL FOR APPT. (415) 431-4468



Good Head in Sonoma County.  
Call Days 707-823-3895

Bare-Assed Spanking  
Experienced, Safe: 415-929-1185

TOP wants submissive butt pigs.  
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San Francisco's #1 Gay Dateline  
Call: 1-900-255-2221. \$2.99 min.  
18+. \$3.49 connection charge.

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Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.  
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510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

Paddle/strap/butt 510-654-1122

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Let us do all the work so you can have  
all the fun! We are an exclusive match-  
making service for affluent gay men  
seeking a life partner. Visit our website  
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Hot, White Daddy, 45, Big Thick Dick  
HIV- wants to suck & 69 with hung  
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Great Head 510-849-2828 Berkeley

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to share their problems. Yashewa  
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## WANTED!

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  - Meet Ads
  - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours  
\$2.00  
976-7500

**Free**  
(415) 981-8123

Great Cocksucker • 285-8390

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
**2004 BARE CHEST  
CALENDAR GUYS!**

for raising \$6500 for the AEF & PRC  
and thanks to Lenny Broberg and all  
the volunteers for this project

HOT  
GUYS

Looking for a successful guy? Tired of  
all the guys on the Internet who want  
one thing only? Are you fit, attractive  
and ready for LTR? Visit:  
gaymillionairesclub.com (free).

HANK BUTTPLAYTOP 334-3737.

## FOUND:

Name Brand CD Player in a  
leatherette case with several CD's at  
the bus stop (O'Farrell & Van Ness).  
Identify the name brand of the CD  
and a couple of the CDs and I'll re-  
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## STRICTLY PECS!!

Bare Chest Calendar Contest Starts  
again tonight, January 15th at  
Powerhouse.

CALLING ALL  
MILLIONAIRES!

Let us do all the work so you can have  
all the fun! We are an exclusive match-  
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**FREE TRIAL**  
Use Code: 2160

Interactive  
male

1-900-505-2323 (\$1.99/min) 18+

www.InteractiveMale.com

**BAY AREA REPORTER**

## Strictly Sex!

Record & Listen to personal ads

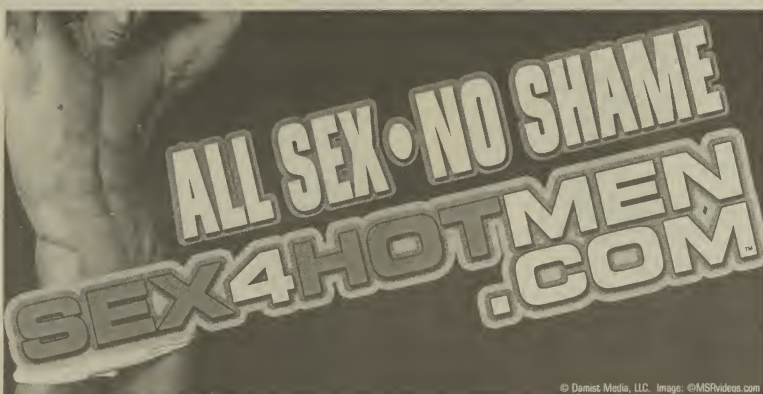
**Free!**  
code: 1010

THE  
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CONNECTION

415-247-2000  
510-814-6699  
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209-473-5959  
559-271-9999

1-800-825-1598

## XXX WEB



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FREE For Hung 8+

**SexPigs.com**

simply email your pix to FREE4Hung@yahoo.com

**HotOlderMale.com**  
REAL MEN not boys



Bay Area Guide to Gay Cruising  
Enter Free Trial code 3295

**WWW.SQUIRT.ORG**

**HUNGRY FOR SEX?**

**ORDER IN... OR EAT OUT!**

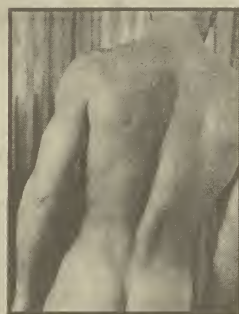
- Loads of Locations to look for Sex
- Live Chat with Guys in the Bay Area
- Personals & Message Boards

OVER 5,000 BAY AREA MEMBERS!

**www.squirt.org**

PressNet Inc. Squirt Fan Club membership req. for some features.

**YOUR FREE BAY AREA CRUISING GUIDE**



**BAY AREA REPORTER**

**PERSONALS ORDER FORM**

### DEADLINE

**NOON on MONDAY.**

Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

### RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

### PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

**MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:**  
BAY AREA  
REPORTER

395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

**OR FAX TO:**  
415.861.8144

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

**X-BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**CAPS** Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼



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get on. get off.



“Uninhibited.”

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it's easy, and it's free.





*Now, I want to use*

# condoms

I use condoms to protect myself from other HIV strains or from getting STDs.

But mostly, I want to make sure that I don't give HIV to anyone else.

I know what this disease is like, and it would break my heart to give it to somebody else.

*Felicia — Positive since 1987*

Visit me on the web, maybe I can inspire you.

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